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Forty-seventh session
(Provisional Agenda item 2(a))

THE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITIES SINCE THE FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

(Commission resolution 2 (XXV) and decisions O (45) and A (46))

Report by the Executive Secretary

INTRODUCTION

1. This report reviews the highlights of the activities of the Commission since the forty-sixth session. A fuller account is contained in the reports of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies and in certain documents prepared for the forty-seventh session.

2. In fulfilment of decision O (45), over the first year of implementation, resources have been redeployed to strengthen activities in the priority areas. The re-organization of the Commission's intergovernmental structure, as defined in decision O (45), has been completed, as reflected in the reports of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies. Methods of work have gained a greater flexibility through increased use of informal meetings and workshops. More information on the implementation of decisions O (45) and A (46) is contained in documents E/ECE/1252 and E/ECE/1265.

3. The review of programme activities below begins with those sectors identified by the Commission as priority areas of activity.

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4. The report also gives special attention to activities designed to assist countries in transition to a market economy and their integration into the European and global economy, as well as to the guiding principle of sustainable development.

Environment (ECE/ENVWA/24)

5. Conventions on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents have been elaborated within the framework of the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems. Work on the conventions was completed in November 1991 and both were adopted and signed at the resumed fifth session of the Senior Advisers held in Helsinki (Finland) from 17 to 18 March 1992 at the Ministerial level. At that occasion the conventions were signed by 22 and 23 countries respectively as well as by the European Community. The Senior Advisers also adopted an interim decision to being implementation of the two conventions without delay pending their ratification. This brings to four the number of regional conventions adopted within the framework of the Senior Advisers.

6. The Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP) in November 1991 adopted the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) or their Transboundary Fluxes, which to date has been signed by 21 countries. It established a Working Group on Strategies to prepare protocols on specific air pollutants, or groups of air pollutants. As a first priority it will prepare a draft protocol for further reductions of sulphur emissions after 1993. On the occasion of the signing of the VOC Protocol a Ministerial statement was adopted, urging Parties, inter alia, to carry out timely negotiations leading to additional protocols to the Convention. The Executive Body also established a Working Group on Technology to update technical annexes to protocols and to address issues on exchange of technology.

7. The Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems in March 1992 adopted a decision on Regional Cooperation for the Management of Hazardous Chemicals (ECE/ENVWA/24, Annex I). They adopted recommendations to ECE Governments on ecosystems-based water management; on protection of inland waters against eutrophication; and on reduction, replacement, recovery, recycling and re-utilization of industrial wastes. In addition they approved reports on the application of environmental impact assessment principles to policies, plans and programmes; on protection of inland waters against eutrophication; and on energy- and resource-saving technologies in the pulp and paper industry.

8. The Senior Advisers concluded their activities on nature conservation by adopting the Code of Practice for the Conservation of Threatened Animals and Plants and Other Species of International Significance (ENVWA/R.52). They invited the Council of Europe to consider possible follow-up action with regard to the documents elaborated by them in that area.

9. Arrangements were made for the further elaboration of the regional strategy on integrated waste management, codes of practice on ecosystems-based water management and on the prevention and control of water pollution from fertilizers and pesticides, and documents on responsibility and liability,

environmental rights and obligations, and on bilateral and multilateral financial cooperation of relevance to environmental protection.

10. Steps have been taken to strengthen cooperation with OECD with respect to management of chemicals, economic instruments of environmental policies and elaboration of environmental policy reviews for ECE countries non-members of OECD.

11. The Executive Body established new Task Forces on Economic Aspects of Abatement Strategies and on Emission Inventories, and specified the future work of the Task Forces on Persistent Organic Pollutants and on Heavy Metals, with an orientation towards providing information by 1994 as a basis for elements of possible protocols.

Transport (ECE/TRANS/94)

12. Progress was made towards the development of a coherent road transport system in Europe, inter alia through the implementation of the revised European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews engaged in Road Transport (AETR). The revision of the 1968 Conventions on Road Traffic is virtually completed. The revision of the 1954 and 1956 Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles has also been completed. The new European Agreement on Important Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) has been opened for signature and was signed by 16 European Transport Ministers at the Conference in Prague (29-31 October 1991). A substantial part of a new Convention on Customs Treatment of Pool Containers has been elaborated.

13. The analysis of traffic flows in three European North-South corridors has been finalized and a seminar was held in Volos (Greece) in June 1991. A traffic flow study in the North-Eastern part of Europe ("Via Baltica" corridor) was launched in 1991. A joint ECE/EC project on the assessment of transport infrastructure needs in the light of east European development has been finalized. An all-European road traffic census was carried out in 1990, the results of which will be published in 1992.

14. Work has started on a study on the establishment of a network of main European inland waterways of international importance, with a view to the elaboration of a European Agreement (AGN) similar to the AGR, AGC and AGTC (for road, rail and combined transport respectively). The revision of the classification of European inland waterways has been virtually completed and a resolution in this respect may be adopted by the end of 1992.

15. A Seminar on Road Traffic Safety was held on 23 and 24 March 1992 to evaluate the Road Safety Week, held in October 1990, and to prepare future action in this area, including a new international road safety campaign.

16. Workshops were held on transition issues in the field of inland transport, i.e.

- Market Adaptation of the Inland Navigation Industry in Eastern and Central Europe and its Integration into an all-European Transport System (Budapest (Hungary), 9-10 September 1991)

- Problems of Transition from a Centrally-planned to a Market Economy in the Field of Road Transport (Sinaia (Romania), 16-19 September 1991)

- Nature of the Relation between the State and the Railways (Gárdony (Hungary), 15-16 October 1991)

- A series of workshops on combined transport issues (Prague, 13-14 June 1991; Budapest, 16-19 September 1991; Warsaw, 21-22 November 1991)

17. To assist central and east European countries in overcoming transition problems, a Guide to the compilation of transport statistics in market economies was also prepared by the secretariat.

18. In the area of transport infrastructure, following the discontinuation of UNDP financial support for the Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project, the participating Governments decided to continue their cooperation through a funding agreement which came into effect on 1 January 1992. ECE continues to serve as executing agency for the project. A similar agreement is being elaborated by the Steering Committee of the Trans-European North-South Railway (TER) Project, which will be financed by UNDP until the end of 1992.

19. A Coordination Meeting was convened by the Inland Transport Committee in 1991 to consider, inter alia, the Committee's working methods and its programme of work, coordination of work with other international organizations and questions related to countries in transition. The Committee at its fifty-fourth session took a number of decisions in respect of these areas.

Statistics (ECE/CES/38)

20. The Conference of European Statisticians has continued to give special attention to activities designed to assist countries in transition and their integration into the European and global economy, in line with decision O (45). As requested in decision O (45), a working group of the Conference reviewed ECE's statistical publications and will report to the 1992 session of the Conference.

21. Several Intersecretariat Working Groups (IWG) were set up during the year to discuss cooperative measures; a number of workshops and meetings have been convened jointly with other organizations; and arrangements have been made for joint data collection and the sharing of data. A Joint Programme Review (JPR) meeting between ECE, OECD and Eurostat was convened to avoid duplication in the statistical work programmes of these organizations. It was agreed that such tripartite intersecretariat meetings would be held annually.

22. A "Newsletter on Transition Projects" has continued to review the progress of the Conference's transition projects and to disseminate information about ongoing work. The Steering Document on "Strategies, priorities and results in the work of statistical offices of transition countries in Europe" has been updated and reinforced through the introduction of sections on results achieved from projects undertaken.

23. In the field of statistical information technology, work sessions on meta-information systems and data editing were held and a publication on data editing methods prepared. The secretariat contributed to the work of the

Message Development Group of the Western European EDIFACT Board, headed by Eurostat.

24. At the Seminar on Household Income Statistics, participants examined the state of the art in this area. The most urgent item for future work is the development of regional guidelines for statistics on distribution of household income, consumption and accumulation.

25. Work on the European Comparison Programme within the ICP has progressed according to schedule and the preliminary results for 1990 in Group II will be available shortly.

26. In social and demographic statistics, consultations were held with Eurostat and the OECD for harmonization of future data collection on migration statistics. Back-to-back meetings on labour statistics were agreed upon among ECE, ILO and OECD. Publications on changing population age structures and on statistics of women are in preparation.

27. Work has been completed on the 1992 Compendium of Environment Statistics. A freshwater quality classification, a draft marine water quality classification, and a revised draft of a classification of environmental protection expenditures were prepared. Work in the fields of environmental accounting and the Baltic GIS progressed as planned.

Economic analysis (ECE/EC.AD/38)

28. In the context of the continuing radical changes taking place in central and eastern Europe, special attention has been paid in the economic analysis carried out by the secretariat to current economic developments and reforms in the transition countries in the region. Accordingly, the Economic Survey of Europe in 1991-1992 contains a chapter on the latest developments in the countries of central and eastern Europe and another on the economies of the former Soviet Union. The Survey also includes a study on privatization. The situation in the transition countries was also reviewed in The ECE Economies in Mid-1991, prepared for the session of Economic and Social Council in July 1991.

29. In the Economic Bulletin for Europe, Volume 43, special attention was paid to the costs of transformation in terms of output, employment and social security, as well as to the collapse of the intra-CMEA trade and payments system and its impact on mutual trade of the economies in transition. The Bulletin drew special attention to the economic depression which has taken hold of the countries in transition and devoted a chapter to the external economic relations of the three Baltic states.

30. The Senior Economic Advisers, at their session in May 1991, exchanged information on current and medium-term economic developments in the ECE region. They made use of the Economic Survey of Europe in 1990-1991, which was relevant to the two main topics selected for their exchange of views, namely the sequencing of structural reforms and macro-economic policies required for the transition to a market system, and the impact of the dismantling of the CMEA trade and payments system on the economies of central and eastern Europe and east-west economic relations. In response to decision B (46), the Senior

Economic Advisers considered the short- and medium-term impact of the Gulf crisis on ECE member countries, including the consequences resulting from the application of Security Council resolution 661. (see E/ECE/1258)

31. The Senior Economic Advisers devoted special attention to the analysis of structural economic issues and decided to hold a second ad hoc meeting on international trade and structural changes. Special attention was also devoted to the interrelationships between economic development and the environment. The second session of the Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics was held in December 1991 and formulated a number of recommendations to be examined by the Senior Economic Advisers in June 1992.

Trade (ECE/TRADE/178)

(a) Trade facilitation

32. The development of UN/EDIFACT messages is rapidly progressing within the framework of the EDIFACT Joint Rapporteurs programme set up by the Working Party. At present UN/EDIFACT includes recommendations for 18 standard messages (UNSM) approved for implementation, 16 messages for trial use and 35 messages for information. This means that 69 electronic messages are now at various stages of introduction and cover various dimensions of international trade transactions such as order, payments, transport, customs, construction, etc. (See also E/ECE/1253)

33. The Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures adopted a detailed and restructured programme of work on legal issues in order to reconcile legal features of commercial practices with the requirements of Electronic Data Interchange. It devoted particular attention to trade facilitation aspects of the transport of dangerous goods and to problems associated with the practice of pre-shipment inspection (PSI), an issue which is also under discussion in the framework of the GATT trade negotiations, with the aim of reaching international agreement on the subject.

34. In the field of procedures and documentation, the Working Party approved recommendations concerning Layout Keys and revised other Recommendations providing for a new methodology between trading partners and Simpler Shipping Marks.

(b) Other trade activities

35. A workshop on the management of East-West joint ventures (Vienna (Austria), May 1991) recommended the preparation of a guide providing information on the availability of training programmes in Europe and Government funding to assist with the costs of management training in central and eastern Europe. The Guide will serve as a background document for a workshop to be held in Italy in 1992.

36. A workshop on foreign trade and payments reforms in the economies in transition (Bucharest (Romania), September 1991) elaborated guidelines for dismantling foreign trade monopoly, import control, export promotion, export credit financing and guarantees, and convertibility of domestic currency.

37. A Round-table on problems and prospects of trade, payments and investment among the economies in transition was held in December 1991 during the session of the Committee on the Development of Trade. A Guide on "Legal Aspects of Privatization in Industry", prepared under the auspices of the Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industry, was published in February 1992. Four issues of the East-West Joint Ventures News were published in 1991. A further study on "Promoting Foreign Direct Investment in the ECE Region" is being prepared for publication.

Energy (ECE/ENERGY/15)

38. At its first session in November 1991, the Committee on Energy identified and rank-ordered six programme activities, agreed on a programme of work and drafted its terms of reference. It also reviewed energy strategies of the ECE countries and examined the energy situation in the economies in transition. It took note of legislative and institutional reforms in the transition countries and the absence of investments in supply and end-use infrastructure.

39. In accordance with the recommendation of the Bergen Conference, a meeting on "Energy Efficiency Standards and Labelling Systems" was held in January 1992, which agreed on the need to continue work in this field. It was decided to compare energy efficiency labels for refrigerators, freezers and combined refrigerators/freezers since international standards for measuring the energy consumption of these appliances had already been agreed.

40. Studies were finalized on Sustainable Energy Developments in Europe and North America and on Energy Efficient Design.

41. Seminars were held on Solar Power Systems (Alushta, Ukraine) and on Energy Efficiency Measures in Industry (Bled, Yugoslavia).

42. During its first year of operation the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project executed nine events in eight countries. Three drafts have been prepared for publication om selected energy efficient technologies, products and services; policies and programmes for energy efficiency; and a database of individuals, enterprises and institutions involved in trade and cooperation in energy efficiency.

43. Following the session of the Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project (ENERGY/AC.11/6), an ad hoc Meeting on Global Energy Efficiency 21 was held (ENERGY/AC.13/2) to facilitate information exchange on energy efficiency on a global scale. This will be included in Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

44. The Working Party on Coal, in October 1991, reviewed its structure and activities and identified sectoral priorities as being the transition of the coal industry to market conditions, environmental protection and safety, efficient clean coal technologies, facilitation of coal trade and development of coal trade infrastructure in central and east European countries. The Working Party merged two former subsidiary bodies to form a Meeting of Experts on Research, Management and Transition in the Coal Industry.

45. Workshops were organized in 1991 on the Market Adaptation of Coal Industries in Central and Eastern Europe (Hungary, May 1991) and on Clean

Utilization of Low-Calorie Solid Fuels (Romania, September 1991). Preparations are under way for symposia on Opencast Coal Mining and the Environment (Nottingham (United Kingdom), October 1992); on Clean Coal Technologies (Helsinki (Finland), May 1993); and on Dynamic Phenomena in Underground Mines (St Petersburg (Russian Federation), May 1994).

46. The Working Party on Electric Power has concentrated on economic and technological aspects, including current developments, medium-term and long-term prospects, new technologies, impact on the environment of electric power stations, implications of climate change for electricity supply and international interconnections, more specifically central European interconnections, and a study on future prospects of natural gas demand for electric power generation and its impact on the gas and electric power industries, to be carried out jointly with the Working Party on Gas.

47. The Working Party on Gas implemented activities to provide assistance to economies in transition by holding workshops on gas pricing policies and tariffs design, measures to enhance the exploration and production of indigenous natural gas resources, and a study on interconnections and extension of gas networks in Europe to provide gas supply options to countries in central and eastern Europe. The future prospects of gas supply and gas market developments in the ECE region will be examined at a symposium (Istanbul (Turkey), May 1993).

48. A Symposium on the Use of CNG, LNG and LPG as Fuels for Internal Combustion Engines was held in Kiev (Ukraine) in September 1991, including an auto-tour designed to demonstrate the technical development and commercial viability of using gaseous fuels in the transport sector to achieve environmental objectives.

Agriculture and timber

(a) Agriculture (ECE/AGRI/118)

49. At its session in March 1992, the Committee pursued its efforts to adapt its methods of work and use of resources to the provisions of decision O (45). Suggestions were made concerning the Committee's discussions on developments in the agricultural sector and their implications for policy, and on the coordination of the work of the subsidiary bodies. The Committee also proposed a strengthened role for its Bureau and considered a proposal to meet every two years.

50. The Committee began to implement its substantially reoriented programme of work. Two former Working Parties were replaced by Working Parties on Relations between Agriculture and the Environment; and on the Economics of the Agri-Food Sector and Farm Management. They met in the autumn of 1991 and drew up proposals for their respective programmes of work and mandates. All the Committee's subsidiary bodies are adapting their programmes to give greater emphasis to the Commission's priority areas of activity, to programmes designed to assist the countries in transition, as well as to the guiding principles of sustainable development.

51. A workshop on the transformation of collective farms into viable market-oriented units will be held in Hungary in June 1992.

52. The Committee on Agriculture continued to monitor European markets for cereals, livestock and meat and milk and dairy products, as well as trade in agricultural produce and prices received for their products and paid for their inputs by agricultural producers.

53. A symposium was held in Graz (Austria) in June 1991, jointly with FAO, on the use of agricultural land for non-food purposes. Fundamental changes have been taking place in European agriculture with markets for some food products becoming saturated in many countries and productivity in agriculture continuing to rise. Under these circumstances, policies to maintain rural structures and employment demand that alternatives be found to food production, which may include renewable raw materials and sources of energy, recreation, touristic and leisure activities, forestry and nature conservation.

(b) Timber (ECE/TIM/59)

54. The Timber Committee's session in January 1992 was its first opportunity to adapt its structure, programme and methods of work to decision O (45). It drafted revised terms of reference and reshaped its programme of work to conform with the Commission's priority areas and guiding principles.

55. One of the Committee's six programme activities is devoted entirely to assistance to the economies in transition in central and eastern Europe. A workshop was held in Budapest (Hungary) in September/October 1991 on the organization and management of forestry under market economy conditions. Further workshops are in preparation, including one in Germany in June 1992 on privatization in the forest and forest industry sector and in the Russian Federation in autumn 1992 on problems for the forestry sector of transition to a market economy. An informal ECE/FAO meeting is planned to be held in Austria in autumn 1992 to coordinate activities in the forest and forest products sector in support of countries in transition.

56. The Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, in August 1991, reviewed progress on the temperate-zone part of the global forest resource assessment 1990, and preparations for the fifth European Timber Trends and Prospects study were agreed on, including forecasting methodologies. Steps were initiated to evaluate the effectiveness of the dissemination of statistics, analyses and other information generated by the Committee, including the ECE/FAO Timber Bulletin, with a view to proposing improvements in contents and presentation.

57. A Seminar on New Technologies and Applications in the Wood-based Panels Sector (Gdansk (Poland), May 1991) considered possibilities for strengthening east-west contacts in these industries. Seminars were also held in Denmark in June 1991 on thinning operations and in Greece in November 1991 on forest fire prevention, land use and people, the latter giving special attention to the socio-economic problem of forest fires in south European countries.

Human settlements (ECE/HBP/83)

58. The Committee on Human Settlements, at its session in September 1991, identified two primary areas of work: assistance to the process of socio-economic transition and sustainable human settlements development. It also reconsidered its structure and methods of work and decided to enhance the

efficiency and flexibility of its activities and to review the contents of its programme of work. An informal consultation of the heads of delegations to the Committee was held in February 1991 to identify the issues to be taken up at the next meeting of the Committee in September 1992.

59. With respect to assistance to the process of socio-economic transition, five workshops were held within a year. Need for assistance in the field of housing, land management and building proved to be of primary concern to many countries. On the basis of the results of the workshops, a summary report on housing policy guidelines was prepared to improve the availability of information. It was sent for comments to member countries and will be discussed by the Committee at its next session.

Industry

(a) Chemical industry (ECE/CHEM/83)

60. At its first session in October 1992, the Working Party on the Chemical Industry drafted its terms of reference.

61. The High-Level Meeting on Cooperation and Sustainable Development in the Chemical Industries was held in Warsaw (Poland) on 10-12 March 1992, as a follow-up to the Bergen Conference. It was organized in cooperation with the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC) and with the support of the Commission of the European Communities, and was the first international conference on the subject with a genuine cross-sectoral approach gathering senior representatives from Governments, the chemical industry and regional and international organizations and institutions. The Meeting adopted conclusions reflecting the clear commitment of all partners to the common objective of promoting sustainable development. The High-Level Meeting constituted a substantive contribution to the UNCED.

62. A workshop on restructuring state-owned enterprises in economies in transition and main policy issues was held in Baden (Austria) from 9-11 March 1992. It was the first in a series on this subject and provided a unique opportunity to exchange experience and discuss national approaches in the restructuring of state-owned enterprises, including the case of Austria, corporate strategies on the part of western multinationals with respect to their investments in the economies in transition, how Governments in these economies might improve the climate for foreign investments and how they might be provided with financial and technical assistance.

63. The Meeting of Experts on the Periodic Survey of the Chemical Industry, in October 1991, examined structural developments and changes occurring in sectors of the industry and product groups.

64. The Annual Review of the Chemical Industry in 1990 was published as well as studies on Substitutes for Tripolyphosphate in Detergents (ECE/CHEM/80) and on Engineering Plastics (ECE/CHEM/81). Work continued on the study on management of plastic wastes in the ECE region and on the preparation of the ECE Directory of Chemical Producers and Products.

65. A study tour was organized of the chemical industry in Turkey in October 1991. A workshop on Methods of Improving the Effectiveness of the Polish

Chemical Industry was held in Plock (Poland) in June 1991 and preparations began for a workshop on Waste Treatment in Industrial Parks, to be held in Turkey in 1993.

(b) Engineering Industries and Automation (ECE/ENG.AUT/46)

66. The Meeting on Questions of Statistics concerning Engineering Industries and Automation, held in October 1991, reviewed developments in this sector, including aspects related to international trade. The second Workshop on Rehabilitation Engineering (REHAB-2) was held in Fagernes (Norway) in May 1991 and preparations continued for the third and final Workshop on this subject in Trebon-Spa (Czech and Slovak Federal Republic) in May 1992.

67. Preparations continued for the seminars on New Materials and their Application in Engineering Industries (Kiev (Ukraine), October 1992) and on Foundry Production and Ecology (Minsk (Belarus), May 1993).

68. The Annual Review of Engineering Industries and Automation in 1990 (ECE/ENG.AUT/47) was published as well as the study on Food-Processing Machinery Including Packaging Techniques (ECE/ENG.AUT/43). A study tour of the food and food-machinery industry was held in Hungary in October 1991. The study on Low-Waste Technologies in Engineering Industries is nearing completion and work began on the study on the Medium- and Long-Term Trends and Prospects in Engineering Industries and Automation.

69. A workshop on Strategies in Privatization and Management Techniques of Engineering Industries in Belarus was held in Minsk (Belarus) in February 1992. A workshop on the Adjustment of Engineering Industries in Economies in Transition is tentatively scheduled in Bulgaria in 1992.

(c) Steel industry (ECE/STEEL/76)

70. At its first session in October 1991 the Working Party on Steel drafted its terms of reference. It placed emphasis on the economic and market aspects of consumption of steel and of supply of raw materials such as scrap as well as issues of importance to the economies in transition.

71. A review was made in 1991 of the major trends in the production and consumption of, and trade in, steel and steel-making raw materials, investment and prices as well as factors influencing steel consumption in the face of competitive materials. A Seminar on Producers' and Users' Metallurgical Requirements in the Welding of Steel Products was held in Kiev (Ukraine) in September 1991. Preparations began for the Seminar on the Restructuration and Management Techniques in Steel Industries in Countries in Transition towards Market-Economy Conditions (Dabrowa Gornicza (Poland), May 1992) and for the development of a programme on metallurgy and ecology. As part of this programme, preparations began for a seminar to be held in France in 1993. A study tour of the French steel industry was organized in May 1991.

72. The Steel Market in 1990 (ECE/STEEL/73) and the study on Iron and Steel Scrap (Fifth updating)(ECE/STEEL/74) were published. Work continued on the study on steel product quality and maximum utilization of scrap.

73. The secretariat, in association with the secretariats of EUROSTAT (Commission of the European Communities), OECD and IISI (International Iron and Steel Institute), continued its efforts for the revision and simplification of steel statistics, taking into account available statistical resources, the existing systems and the statistics published by other sources.

74. A workshop on the Restructuring of the Romanian Steel Industry was held in Tigorviste (Romania) in February 1992.

(d) Standardization (ECE/STAND/34)

75. The first meeting of the Working Party on Standardization Policies was held on 13-15 May 1991, at which it conducted a thorough review of its programme of work.

76. New priorities for international standardization work, including environmental aspects and energy efficiency questions, will be considered at the second session to be held in May 1992. At that session, the Working Party is expected to draft its terms of reference.

77. A workshop on conformity assessment was held in Romania and three were held in Bulgaria.

Science and Technology (ECE/SC.TECH/42)

78. At their session in September 1991, the Senior Advisers on Science and Technology drafted revised terms of reference. They considered their contribution to reform in economies in transition as well as other possible new areas of cooperation, including a long-term strategy for development in the region in the field of science and technology, and a compendium on the laws and other legal instruments regulating R & D activities at the national and subregional level in ECE member countries. A forum for the discussion of managerial aspects and relationships between national and federal/regional bodies, both governmental and non-governmental, in promoting innovation will be held in 1992. A Workshop on the State Policy on Science and Technology in Economies in Transition Aimed at Promoting Innovation in Industry will be convened in Warsaw (Poland) in June 1992.

79. Preparations continued for the 1992 quadrennial review of changes in overall science and technology policies and of agreements on scientific and technological cooperation in close consultation with OECD. The collection of information for the inventory of safety guidelines in biotechnology continued and summaries of submissions on the subject from 23 Governments were issued.

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ECE ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT

(Commission decision 0 (45))

Report by the Executive Secretary

1. By operative paragraph 2(e) of decision 0 (45) the Commission invited the Executive Secretary, inter alia, to prepare annual reports on proposed initiatives and work programme elements having environmental aspects for consideration by the Commission. This would ensure coordination of the ECE's activities in the area of environment on a continuing basis.

2. The information is presented in accordance with main areas of cooperation in the fields of environmental protection, rational use of natural resources and sustainable development identified, among other areas' in the Espoo Ministerial Statement (ECE/ENVWA/18, Annex I):

- Environmental policy and strategy;
- Integration of environmental and economic objectives and policies;
- Environmental management in the light of changing socio-economic conditions;
- Environmental impact assessment;
- Water management;

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- Soil management;
- Air pollution problems;
- Waste management;
- Environmentally sound technology and products;
- Environmentally sound management of chemicals and dangerous goods;
- Energy efficiency and conservation;
- Industrial accidents;
- Natural resource management;
- Monitoring of the state of the environment and environmental information;
- Awareness raising and public participation.

Environmental policy and strategy

3. A number of activities of the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems, reported on under other headings below and resulting in policy recommendations to ECE Governments, are intended to assist countries in developing or adapting existing environmental policies and strategies so as to harmonize them at a regional level and to promote their implementation.

4. The Senior Advisers will, in cooperation with OECD, take steps to review the performance of those ECE countries which are not members of OECD in meeting environmental policy objectives and regional commitments on the basis of the methodology established by OECD for the review of its member countries (1)*.

5. The Senior Advisers have been invited to contribute to the preparation of the Conference "Environment for Europe" to be convened by the Government of Switzerland in late 1992 or early 1993, in particular by elaborating (a) a draft Ministerial Declaration for adoption at the Conference, and (b) elements for an evolving environmental programme for Europe (2).

The integration of environmental and economic objectives and policies

6. As a follow-up to the Bergen Conference (May 1990), a Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics was set up to promote the integration of environmental and economic objectives and policies and to enhance cooperation towards sustainable development (3). The Joint Working Group would provide a forum for the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) relevant to environment and economics at the regional level.

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*/ Numbers refer to the ECE activities in the field of environment listed in the synoptic table attached.

7. In order to promote environmentally sustainable agriculture, the Committee on Agriculture has set up a Working Party on Relations between Agriculture and the Environment, which will study in particular economic, legal, technological and regulatory measures for the promotion of sustainable development and production of healthy food, and prepare, inter alia, a compendium, draft codes and regulations (4).

8. The Committee on Human Settlements is promoting sustainable development in urban and rural settlements to advance environmental soundness (5).

9. The Conference of European Statisticians is preparing the draft ECE Standard Statistical Classification of Environmental Protection Facilities and Expenditures (6).

Environmental management in the light of changing socio-economic conditions

10. The Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems are promoting assistance to member countries with economies in transition for the integration of environmental considerations in planning, decision-making and economic activities. Workshops are organized to exchange information and analyse experience in specific areas of environmental management (7). The Senior Advisers are periodically informed about initiatives and existing projects, in the field of bilateral and multilateral financial cooperation in the ECE region, of relevance to environmental protection, rational use of natural resources and sustainable development (8).

11. The Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics is evaluating the situation in countries in transition with special attention to the impact of environmental conditions on economic development. At its session in December 1991 it considered a report on economy and ecology in the former Soviet Union and will consider one prepared by Czechoslovakia at its next session. The analysis of economic restructuring and the environment in countries in transition will be the topic for a workshop in Hungary in 1992 (9). The Joint Working Group also addressed the problem of costing and funding of environmental policies in the context of competing priorities, with special reference to the needs of countries in transition (10); examined macro-economic implications of environmental policies; and provided a transfer of experience from market-economy countries to economies in transition (3).

12. The Working Party on Relations between Agriculture and the Environment is studying the integration of environmental aspects in the process of agricultural reforms and transmission of recent experience in this field to economies in transition on the basis of pilot or demonstration projects (11).

13. The Committee on Human Settlements is promoting human settlements management and environmental protection in the process of socio-economic transition in order to improve the quality of the urban environment and create better conditions to integrate environmental aspects into urban planning and the management process (12).

Environmental impact assessment

14. The 1991 Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context has been signed by 28 countries and the European Community. A meeting

of Signatories prepared a work-plan for the implementation of the Convention pending its entry into force and to prepare for the first Meeting of the Parties (13).

15. A task force with the United States as lead country finalized a report on the application of environmental impact assessment (EIA) principles to policies, plans and programmes, including a set of draft recommendations to ECE countries for adoption by the Senior Advisers (14).

16. An assessment of the impact of road vehicles on the environment, of pollution emissions, of noise and of energy consumption was undertaken by the Inland Transport Committee in cooperation with other competent bodies. The results of this work are reflected in the development of the corresponding international regulations applicable to the construction of vehicles (15).

Water management

17. The draft Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes was prepared for adoption by the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems in March 1992 (16).

18. A synthesis report, including recommendations on the protection of inland water against eutrophication (ENVWA/WP.3/R.22), is ready for adoption by the Senior Advisers (17). Based on the outcome of a Seminar held in Oslo (Norway) in 1991, the Senior Advisers, assisted by their Working Party on Water Problems, will elaborate guidelines to ECE Governments in the form of a code of practice for the ecosystem approach to water management in 1992 (18). The Senior Advisers are also reviewing existing methods for elaborating water quality criteria and objectives including draft recommendations to ECE Governments (19) and developing draft recommendations on the substitution and reduction of the use of substances that are hazardous to the ecosystem, bearing in mind the need to maintain viable agricultural practices (20).

19. The Conference of European Statisticians is developing the ECE Standard Statistical Classification of Surface Freshwater Quality for the Maintenance of Aquatic Life and a corresponding classification for ecological marine water quality and for discharges of water pollutants. These classifications will be used in future data collections (21).

Soil management

20. The Working Party on Relations between Agriculture and the Environment (AGRI/WP.4/2) is promoting the creation of a liaison centre in Hungary for monitoring systems related to soil conservation as regards technical implications (22), and is examining the following problems: conservation of water and soil resources; management of water resources on the farm and in rural areas; control of water and soil pollution by fertilizers, manure, pesticides and farm wastes; prevention of land degradation (23). A report is being finalized on the role of mechanization in agriculture in the ECE region with emphasis on the environmental and economic aspects (24).

Air pollution problems

21. Under the auspices of its Executive Body, the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP) is being implemented together with its related protocols on: Long-term Financing of the Co-operative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP), 1984 (ECE/EB.AIR/11); the Reduction of Sulphur Emissions or their Transboundary Fluxes by at least 30%, 1985 (ECE/EB.AIR/12); the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes, 1988 (ECE/EB.AIR/21); the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes, 1991 (ECE/EB/AIR/30). The elaboration of a draft protocol for further reduction of sulphur emissions after 1993 and preparations for the second step of the Protocol concerning actual reductions of Nitrogen Oxide Emissions or their Transboundary Fluxes is underway (25). Four international cooperative programmes are being implemented on the environmental effects of air pollution on forests, rivers and lakes, materials and monuments, and agricultural crops, as well as the pilot programme on the integrated monitoring of air pollution effects on ecosystems (26).

22. The Steering Body to EMEP has prepared recommendations regarding measurements of hydrocarbons (VOCs) to be incorporated into the EMEP programme. Future emission inventories of air pollutants will be carried out in cooperation with the European Community (CORINAIR). The Executive Body for the Convention adopted these recommendations at its ninth session. (27)

Waste management

23. The Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems are elaborating a Regional Strategy on Integrated Waste Management, aimed at harmonizing policies on waste management at national and international levels (28). Recommendations to ECE Governments on reduction, replacement, recovery, recycling and re-utilization of waste have been finalized by the Working Party on Low- and Non-waste Technology and Re-utilization and Recycling of Wastes for adoption by the Senior Advisers (29).

24. The Working Parties on the Chemical Industry and on Steel are preparing technical studies and organizing workshops in the fields of: management of plastic wastes in the ECE region; waste treatment in industrial parks; and the use of iron and steel scrap. The conclusions will be used for the development of rational methods for the recycling and re-use of industrial wastes (30).

25. The Conference of European Statisticians has revised the draft ECE Standard Statistical Classification of Wastes in the course of data collection for the 1992 Compendium of Environment Statistics (31).

Environmentally sound technology and products

26. With a view to promoting integrated policies and managerial instruments for both low-waste technology and environmentally sound products, the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems will convene a Seminar in Warsaw (Poland) in 1993 (32). A task force, with the Netherlands as lead country, is developing a methodology for setting up environmental product profiles to improve the flow of information on environmentally related specifications of a product (33). The Working Party on Low- and Non-waste Technology and

Re-utilization and Recycling of Wastes will review the development and application of environmental technology and progress made in the implementation of the Declaration on Low- and Non-waste Technology and Re-utilization and Recycling of Wastes in the ECE region (34).

27. A study on substitutes for tripolyphosphate in detergents was completed by the Working Party on the Chemical Industry (35).

Environmentally sound management of chemicals and dangerous goods

28. In accordance with the decisions of the Bergen Conference, a High-level Meeting on Cooperation and Sustainable Development in the Chemical Industry will be organized from 10 to 12 March 1992 in Warsaw (Poland) in cooperation with the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC) and with the support of the Commission of the European Communities (36).

29. The Convention on Civil Liability for Damage Caused During Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road, Rail and Inland Navigation Vessels (CRTD) to Life, Property and Environment was adopted by the Inland Transport Committee. The Convention is based on the principles of strict and limited liability, the channelling of responsibility and compulsory insurance (37). The Committee is continuing to review, develop and update the recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods by road, rail, inland waterways and combined transport (38) as well as the technical annexes to the European Agreement for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) (39).

30. As a follow-up to the CSCE Sofia Meeting on the Protection of the Environment, the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems, in cooperation with OECD, are promoting regional cooperation for the management of hazardous chemicals and, in particular, the extension of systems and concepts established by OECD for its member countries to the ECE region as a whole. An ad hoc meeting in Vienna (Austria) in September 1991 made proposals to this effect and another will be convened in Sweden in 1993 to review progress made (40). In cooperation with OECD a workshop on principles of good laboratory practice and compliance therewith, in particular in countries with economies in transition, will be organized in Hungary in 1992.

31. The Conference of European Statisticians is evaluating current statistics on production, storage, transport and use of chemicals from an environmental point of view (41).

Energy efficiency and conservation

32. The Committee on Energy agreed on the following activities in this field: (a) promotion of energy reforms and restructuring in electric power, coal and gas industries in central and eastern Europe (42); (b) implementation of the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project including development and promotion of energy-efficient and environmentally sound technologies for member Governments (43); and (c) examination of the interface between energy and the environment, in particular environmental protection in coal and gas industries and electric power and of the possibility of elaborating energy efficient standards and labels for some categories of products (44). The Energy Efficiency 2000 Project will be implemented, inter alia, through symposia and workshops and preparation of reports and studies.

33. A study on the evaluation of alternative technologies in the pulp and paper industry, with special attention to energy and resource-saving processes, was completed by the Working Party on Low- and Non-waste Technology and Recycling and Re-utilization of Wastes (45).

34. The Committee on Human Settlements is examining methods to promote sustainable energy use in construction and human settlements without detrimental effects on the indoor climate (46).

35. The Inland Transport Committee is promoting energy savings in relation to transport policy, vehicle construction and technology and transport operations. The study focuses on road, railway and water transport and aims to improve traffic management, cooperation between transport modes and transport mode interfaces (47).

36. The Timber Committee provides a forum for exchanging information on energy conservation and self-sufficiency in the mechanical wood-processing industries. A seminar to promote the exchange of technological and statistical data and analysis of trends is planned for 1993 (48).

Industrial accidents

37. The Draft Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents has been finalized for adoption by the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems in March 1992 (49).

38. The Senior Advisers on Science and Technology have set up an inventory of existing safety guidelines in biotechnology including existing laws and regulations (50). The final results of this work are expected by 1994.

Natural resource management

39. The Timber Committee is carrying out an assessment of forest resources in the ECE region, including the supply of environmental and non-wood benefits of the forest as well as the forest contribution to society (51). Economic, silvicultural, ecological and technical aspects of the rational use of forest biomass are also analysed taking into account environmental considerations and sustainability of production (52). Solutions to the problems caused to forestry in areas contaminated by radiation from the Chernobyl disaster are being examined (53).

40. The Working Party on Relations between Agriculture and the Environment is examining measures for the elimination of effects to agriculture caused by radionuclear accidents (54). A workshop on this subject will be organized in 1992. The Working Party is studying the relation between environmental factors, including pollution by industries and other human activities, and the quantity and quality of agricultural production; economic, regulatory and institutional aspects (55) and the improvement, development and harmonization of food and agricultural statistics as well as statistics on agriculture-related environmental problems (56).

41. The Committee on Energy is promoting the development and use of new and renewable sources of energy (NRSE) (57). A survey of international cooperation on NRSE was issued (ENERGY/R.61).

42. A Code of Practice for the conservation of threatened animals and plants and other species of particular conservation concern and lists of birds and mammals of international significance for their conservation in Europe has been completed by the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems (58).

43. The Conference of European Statisticians is revising the draft ECE Framework of Fauna, Flora and Habitats for the purpose of data collection for the Compendium of Environment Statistics. The Conference also plans a pilot study in which the feasibility of organizing environmental information on broad issues will be studied. Resource/patrimony accounting will be evaluated for the issues of "nutrients in the environment" and "changes in land cover and land use" (59).

Monitoring of the state of the environment and environmental information

44. The Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems will examine existing systems for obtaining and exchanging reliable environmental information, and will consider ways of improving the monitoring of the environment in the ECE region (60).

45. The Timber Committee exchanges information on forest fires, their causes and methods of prevention and protection of forests (61). It has also set up a system of information on occurrences of sudden or severe damage to forests (62).

46. The Conference of European Statisticians is working on the development of internationally coordinated geographic information systems for the Baltic drainage basin (63) and on international environmental data service including the publication of Compendia of Environment Statistics and Statistical Environmental Monographs (64). The need for highly aggregated environmental information has led the Conference to resume work on the development of a Set of Environmental Indicators (65).

Awareness raising and public participation

47. An ad hoc meeting in 1991 elaborated a document on environmental rights and obligations for consideration by the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems. The Senior Advisers are also examining possibilities for providing guidance to countries on issues relating to responsibility and liability at national and international levels and will review relevant activities undertaken in other international fora (66).

TABLE

ECE ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT

Main areas of cooperation	Environment	Other sectors					
		Agriculture and timber	Human settlements	Industry and technology	Energy	Transport	Statistics
Environmental policy and strategy	1, 2						
Integration of environmental and economic objectives and policies	3	4	5				6
Environmental management in the light of changing socio-economic conditions	7, 8, 9, 10, 40	11, 53, 54	12	35, 36	42, 43		
Environmental impact assessment	13, 14					15	
Water management	16, 17, 18 19, 20						21
Soil management		22, 23, 24					
Air pollution problems	25, 26, 27						
Waste management	28, 29			30			31
Environmentally sound technology and products	32, 33, 34			35			
Environmentally sound management of chemicals and dangerous goods	40			36		37, 38, 39	41
Energy efficiency and conservation	45	48	46		42, 43, 44	47	
Industrial accidents	49			50			
Natural resource management	58	51, 52, 53 54, 55, 56			57		59
Monitoring of the state of the environment and environmental information	60	61, 62					63, 64, 65
Awareness raising and public participation	66						

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-seventh session
(Provisional Agenda item 2(a))

ECE ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT

(Commission decision 0 (45))

Report by the Executive Secretary

1. By operative paragraph 2(e) of decision 0 (45) the Commission invited the Executive Secretary, inter alia, to prepare annual reports on proposed initiatives and work programme elements having environmental aspects for consideration by the Commission. This would ensure coordination of the ECE's activities in the area of environment on a continuing basis.

2. The information is presented in accordance with main areas of cooperation in the fields of environmental protection, rational use of natural resources and sustainable development identified, among other areas, in the Espoo Ministerial Statement (ECE/ENVWA/18, Annex I):

- Environmental policy and strategy;
- Integration of environmental and economic objectives and policies;
- Environmental management in the light of changing socio-economic conditions;

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* Updated in the light of the decisions taken by Principal Subsidiary Bodies since February 1992.

GE.92-20889/7305a

- Environmental impact assessment;
- Water management;
- Soil management;
- Air pollution problems;
- Waste management;
- Environmentally sound technology and products;
- Environmentally sound management of chemicals and dangerous goods;
- Energy efficiency and conservation;
- Industrial accidents;
- Natural resource management;
- Monitoring of the state of the environment and environmental information;
- Awareness raising and public participation.

Environmental policy and strategy

3. A number of activities of the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems, reported on under other headings below and resulting in policy recommendations to ECE Governments, are intended to assist countries in developing or adapting existing environmental policies and strategies so as to harmonize them at a regional level and to promote their implementation.

4. The Senior Advisers will, in cooperation with OECD, take steps to review the performance of those ECE countries which are not members of OECD in meeting environmental policy objectives and regional commitments on the basis of the methodology established by OECD for the review of its member countries. At their sixth session in February 1993 the Senior Advisers will adopt a detailed programme for environmental performance reviews (1)*.

5. In response to the invitation extended by the Expert Group for the Conference "Environment for Europe" to be convened by the Government of Switzerland in late 1992 or early 1993, the Senior Advisers established an ad hoc Working Group entrusted with the preparation of a draft contribution for that Conference, which will include initial elements for an evolving environmental programme for Europe and preliminary elements for a Ministerial Declaration (2).

The integration of environmental and economic objectives and policies

6. As a follow-up to the Bergen Conference (May 1990), a Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics was set up to promote the integration of environmental and economic objectives and policies and to enhance cooperation towards sustainable development (3). The Joint Working Group would provide a

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* Numbers refer to the ECE activities in the field of environment listed in the synoptic table attached.

forum for the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) relevant to environment and economics at the regional level.

7. In order to promote environmentally sustainable agriculture, the Committee on Agriculture has set up a Working Party on Relations between Agriculture and the Environment, which will study in particular economic, legal, technological and regulatory measures for the promotion of sustainable development and production of healthy food, and prepare, inter alia, a compendium, draft codes and regulations (4).

8. The Committee on Human Settlements is promoting sustainable development in urban and rural settlements to advance environmental soundness (5).

9. The Conference of European Statisticians is preparing the draft ECE Standard Statistical Classification of Environmental Protection Facilities and Expenditures (6).

Environmental management in the light of changing socio-economic conditions

10. The Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems are promoting assistance to member countries with economies in transition for the integration of environmental considerations in planning, decision-making and economic activities. Workshops are organized to exchange information and analyse experience in specific areas of environmental management (7). The Senior Advisers are periodically informed about initiatives and existing projects, in the field of bilateral and multilateral financial cooperation in the ECE region, of relevance to environmental protection, rational use of natural resources and sustainable development (8). A revised version of the 1992 report will be issued in Spring 1992 followed by the preparation of the 1993 report.

11. The Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics is evaluating the situation in countries in transition with special attention to the impact of environmental conditions on economic development. At its session in December 1991 it considered a report on economy and ecology in the former Soviet Union and will consider one prepared by Czechoslovakia at its next session. The analysis of economic restructuring and the environment in countries in transition will be the topic for a workshop in Hungary in 1992 (9). The Joint Working Group also addressed the problem of costing and funding of environmental policies in the context of competing priorities, with special reference to the needs of countries in transition (10); examined macro-economic implications of environmental policies; and provided a transfer of experience from market-economy countries to economies in transition (3).

12. The Working Party on Relations between Agriculture and the Environment is studying the integration of environmental aspects in the process of agricultural reforms and transmission of recent experience in this field to economies in transition on the basis of pilot or demonstration projects (11).

13. The Committee on Human Settlements is promoting human settlements management and environmental protection in the process of socio-economic transition in order to improve the quality of the urban environment and create better conditions to integrate environmental aspects into urban planning and the management process (12).

Environmental impact assessment

14. The 1991 Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context has been signed by 28 countries and the European Community and ratified by two countries so far. A meeting of Signatories prepared a work-plan for the implementation of the Convention pending its entry into force and to prepare for the first Meeting of the Parties (13).

15. A task force with the United States as lead country finalized a report on the application of environmental impact assessment (EIA) principles to policies, plans and programmes, which will be published in the Environmental Series in 1992 (14).

16. An assessment of the impact of road vehicles on the environment, of pollution emissions, of noise and of energy consumption was undertaken by the Inland Transport Committee in cooperation with other competent bodies. The results of this work are reflected in the development of the corresponding international regulations applicable to the construction of vehicles (15).

Water management

17. The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes was adopted by the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems in Helsinki (Finland) on 17 March 1992 and subsequently signed by 22 countries and the European Community (16).

18. A synthesis report, including recommendations on the protection of inland water against eutrophication (ENVWA/WP.3/R.22), was adopted by the Senior Advisers (17). They also adopted the recommendation to ECE Governments on ecosystems-based water management, resulting from a Seminar held in Oslo (Norway) in 1991. As a follow-up, the Senior Advisers, assisted by their Working Party on Water Problems, will elaborate guidelines to ECE Governments, in the form of a code of practice for the ecosystem-based water management in 1992 (18). The Senior Advisers are also reviewing existing methods for elaborating water quality criteria and objectives including draft recommendations to ECE Governments (19) and developing draft recommendations on the prevention and control of water pollution for fertilizers and pesticides, bearing in mind the need to maintain viable agricultural practices (20). The Committee on Agriculture accepted the invitation of the Senior Advisers for close cooperation in this activity and requested delegations to its Working Party on Relations between Agriculture and the Environment to nomionate experts to participate in the task force on the subject.

19. The Conference of European Statisticians is developing the ECE Standard Statistical Classification of Surface Freshwater Quality for the Maintenance of Aquatic Life and a corresponding classification for ecological marine water quality and for discharges of water pollutants. These classifications will be used in future data collections (21).

Soil management

20. The Working Party on Relations between Agriculture and the Environment (AGRI/WP.4/2) is promoting the creation of a liaison centre in Hungary for

monitoring systems related to soil conservation as regards technical implications (22), and is examining the following problems: conservation of water and soil resources; management of water resources on the farm and in rural areas; control of water and soil pollution by fertilizers, manure, pesticides and farm wastes; prevention of land degradation (23). A report is being finalized on the role of mechanization in agriculture in the ECE region with emphasis on the environmental and economic aspects (24).

Air pollution problems

21. Under the auspices of its Executive Body, the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP) is being implemented together with its related protocols on: Long-term Financing of the Co-operative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP), 1984 (ECE/EB.AIR/11); the Reduction of Sulphur Emissions or their Transboundary Fluxes by at least 30%, 1985 (ECE/EB.AIR/12); the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes, 1988 (ECE/EB.AIR/21); the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes, 1991 (ECE/EB/AIR/30). The elaboration of a draft protocol for further reduction of sulphur emissions after 1993 and preparations for the second step of the Protocol concerning actual reductions of Nitrogen Oxide Emissions or their Transboundary Fluxes is underway (25). Four international cooperative programmes are being implemented on the environmental effects of air pollution on forests, rivers and lakes, materials and monuments, and agricultural crops, as well as the pilot programme on the integrated monitoring of air pollution effects on ecosystems (26). The Timber Committee, in cooperation with the European Forestry Commission of FAO, keeps under review possible impacts of air pollution damage to forests on wood supply and forest products markets (26a).

22. The Steering Body to EMEP has prepared recommendations regarding measurements of hydrocarbons (VOCs) to be incorporated into the EMEP programme. Future emission inventories of air pollutants will be carried out in cooperation with the European Community (CORINAIR). The Executive Body for the Convention adopted these recommendations at its ninth session. (27)

Waste management

23. The Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems are elaborating a Regional Strategy on Integrated Waste Management, aimed at harmonizing policies on waste management at national and international levels (28). Recommendations to ECE Governments on reduction, replacement, recovery, recycling and re-utilization of waste have been finalized by the Working Party on Low- and Non-waste Technology and Re-utilization and Recycling of Wastes and adopted by the Senior Advisers in March 1992 (29).

24. The Working Parties on the Chemical Industry and on Steel are preparing technical studies and organizing workshops in the fields of: management of plastic wastes in the ECE region; waste treatment in industrial parks; and the use of iron and steel scrap. The conclusions will be used for the development of rational methods for the recycling and re-use of industrial wastes (30).

25. The Conference of European Statisticians has revised the draft ECE Standard Statistical Classification of Wastes in the course of data collection for the 1992 Compendium of Environment Statistics (31).

Environmentally sound technology and products

26. With a view to promoting integrated policies and managerial instruments for both low-waste technology and environmentally sound products, the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems will convene a Seminar in Warsaw (Poland) in 1993 (32). A task force, with the Netherlands as lead country, is developing a methodology for setting up environmental product profiles to improve the flow of information on environmentally related specifications of a product (33). The Working Party on Low- and Non-waste Technology and Re-utilization and Recycling of Wastes will review the development and application of environmental technology and progress made in the implementation of the Declaration on Low- and Non-waste Technology and Re-utilization and Recycling of Wastes in the ECE region (34).

27. A study on substitutes for tripolyphosphate in detergents was completed and published by the Working Party on the Chemical Industry (ECE/CHEM/80) (35).

Environmentally sound management of chemicals and dangerous goods

28. In accordance with the decisions of the Bergen Conference, a High-level Meeting on Cooperation and Sustainable Development in the Chemical Industry was organized from 10 to 12 March 1992 in Warsaw (Poland) in cooperation with the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC) and with the support of the Commission of the European Communities (36). The Meeting drew up conclusions concerning strategies aimed at sustainable development and cooperation in the chemical industry in the ECE region (ECE/AC.25/9).

29. The Convention on Civil Liability for Damage Caused During Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road, Rail and Inland Navigation Vessels (CRTD) to Life, Property and Environment was adopted by the Inland Transport Committee. The Convention is based on the principles of strict and limited liability, the channelling of responsibility and compulsory insurance (37). The Committee is continuing to review, develop and update the recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods by road, rail, inland waterways and combined transport (38) as well as the technical annexes to the European Agreement for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) (39).

30. As a follow-up to the CSCE Sofia Meeting on the Protection of the Environment, the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems, in cooperation with OECD, are promoting regional cooperation for the management of hazardous chemicals and, in particular, the extension of systems and concepts established by OECD for its member countries to the ECE region as a whole. An ad hoc meeting in Vienna (Austria) in September 1991 made proposals to this effect and another will be convened in Sweden in 1993 to review progress made (40). In cooperation with OECD a workshop on principles of good laboratory practice and compliance therewith, in particular in countries with economies in transition, will be organized in Hungary in 1992. In the light of the developments in this field, the Senior Advisers adopted decision A (5) on regional cooperation for the management of hazardous chemicals.

31. The Conference of European Statisticians is evaluating current statistics on production, storage, transport and use of chemicals from an environmental point of view (41).

Energy efficiency and conservation

32. The Committee on Energy agreed on the following activities in this field: (a) promotion of energy reforms and restructuring in electric power, coal and gas industries in central and eastern Europe (42); (b) implementation of the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project including development and promotion of energy-efficient and environmentally sound technologies for member Governments (43); and (c) examination of the interface between energy and the environment, in particular environmental protection in coal and gas industries and electric power and of the possibility of elaborating energy efficient standards and labels for some categories of products (44). The Energy Efficiency 2000 Project is being implemented, inter alia, through symposia and workshops and preparation of reports and studies. The second session of the Steering Committee of this project elaborated new activities which include organizing a Conference on Energy Efficiency and Environmental Protection via Coal Fired Boilers (Poland, 1992) and a Symposium on Energy Efficiency and Economic Transition in Central and Eastern Europe (France, 1993) (ENERGY/AC.11/6).

33. A study on the evaluation of alternative technologies in the pulp and paper industry, with special attention to energy and resource-saving processes, was completed by the Working Party on Low- and Non-waste Technology and Recycling and Re-utilization of Wastes and adopted by the fifth session of the Senior Advisers for general distribution (45).

34. The Committee on Human Settlements is examining methods to promote sustainable energy use in construction and human settlements without detrimental effects on the indoor climate (46).

35. The Inland Transport Committee is promoting energy savings in relation to transport policy, vehicle construction and technology and transport operations. The study focuses on road, railway and water transport and aims to improve traffic management, cooperation between transport modes and transport mode interfaces (47).

36. The Timber Committee provides a forum for exchanging information on energy conservation and self-sufficiency in the mechanical wood-processing industries. A seminar on the choice of technologies of combustion of wood and bark in the forest industries is planned for 1993 (48).

Industrial accidents

37. The Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents was adopted by the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems in March 1992 and subsequently signed by 23 countries and the European Community (49).

38. The Senior Advisers on Science and Technology have set up an inventory of existing safety guidelines in biotechnology including existing laws and regulations (50). The final results of this work are expected by 1994.

Natural resource assessment and management

39. The Timber Committee, in cooperation with FAO, is carrying out an assessment of forest resources of the temperate zone (ECE region, Australia, New Zealand and Japan), including a study on long-term historical changes of

the forest resource in this region. This forest resource assessment also covers the supply of environmental and other non-wood goods and services of forests to society (51). Economic, silvicultural, ecological and technical aspects of the rational use of forest biomass are also analysed to provide Governments and institutions with information needed for their decisions on suitable ways to use forest resources for supply, taking into account environmental considerations and sustainability of production (52). Solutions to the problems caused to forestry and forest industry in areas contaminated by radiation from the Chernobyl disaster are being examined (53).

40. The Working Party on Relations between Agriculture and the Environment is examining measures for the elimination of effects to agriculture caused by radionuclear accidents (54). A workshop on this subject will be organized in 1992. The Working Party is studying the relation between environmental factors, including pollution by industries and other human activities, and the quantity and quality of agricultural production; economic, regulatory and institutional aspects (55) and the improvement, development and harmonization of food and agricultural statistics as well as statistics on agriculture-related environmental problems (56).

41. The Committee on Energy is promoting the development and use of new and renewable sources of energy (NRSE) (57). A survey of international cooperation on NRSE was issued (ENERGY/R.61).

42. A Code of Practice for the Conservation of Threatened Animals and Plants and Other Species of International Significance was adopted by the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems in March 1992 (58).

43. The Conference of European Statisticians is revising the draft ECE Framework of Fauna, Flora and Habitats for the purpose of data collection for the Compendium of Environment Statistics. The Conference also plans a pilot study in which the feasibility of organizing environmental information on broad issues will be studied. Resource/patrimony accounting will be evaluated for the issues of "nutrients in the environment" and "changes in land cover and land use' (59).

Monitoring of the state of the environment and environmental information

44. The Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems will examine existing systems for obtaining and exchanging reliable environmental information, and will consider ways of improving the monitoring of the environment in the ECE region (60).

45. The Timber Committee, in cooperation with FAO and the European Community, collects and disseminates statistics and other information on forest fires; it examines their causes and methods, techniques and equipment for fire control and prevention to enhance protection of forests (61). It has also set up a system of information on occurrences of sudden or severe damage to forests (62).

46. The Conference of European Statisticians is working on the development of internationally coordinated geographic information systems for the Baltic drainage basin (63) and on international environmental data service including the publication of Compendia of Environment Statistics and Statistical

Environmental Monographs (64). The need for highly aggregated environmental information has led the Conference to resume work on the development of a Set of Environmental Indicators (65).

Awareness raising and public participation

47. An ad hoc meeting in 1991 elaborated a document on environmental rights and obligations for consideration by the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems. The Senior Advisers are also examining possibilities for providing guidance to countries on issues relating to responsibility and liability at national and international levels and will review relevant activities undertaken in other international fora (66).

TABLE

ECE ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT

Main areas of cooperation	Environment	Other sectors					
		Agriculture and timber	Human settlements	Industry and technology	Energy	Transport	Statistics
Environmental policy and strategy	1, 2						
Integration of environmental and economic objectives and policies	3	4	5				6
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-seventh session
(Provisional Agenda item 2(a))

EDIFACT

Report by the Executive Secretary

1. The present report has been prepared in response to paragraph 246 of the Commission's report on its forty-sixth session in which "the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to report to it at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of decisions J and O (45)".

2. The present report will describe: (a) progress achieved by the Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures in 1991; (b) allocation of additional resources to EDIFACT work; and (c) interregional cooperation for the facilitation of international trade.

I. FACILITATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE PROCEDURES IN 1991

3. At its thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions, held in March 1991 and September 1991 respectively, the Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures adopted a detailed and restructured programme of work on legal issues in order to reconcile legal features of commercial practices with the requirements of Electronic Data Interchange. It devoted particular attention to trade facilitation aspects of the transport of dangerous goods and to problems associated with the practice of pre-shipment inspection (PSI), an issue which is also under discussion in the framework of the GATT trade negotiations, with the aim of reaching international agreement on the subject.

4. In the field of procedures and documentation, the Working Party approved a new recommended "Layout Key for Cargo Insurance Documents". It revised Recommendation No.8 on Common Access Reference, providing for a new approach to a unique identification code methodology to be used between trading partners in referring to a transaction and/or consignment. It also revised Recommendation No.15 on Simpler Shipping Marks in order to incorporate references to bar coding and the unique identification code methodology.

5. The development of UN/EDIFACT messages is rapidly progressing within the framework of the EDIFACT Joint Rapporteurs programme set up by the Working Party. It may be recalled that, in March 1990, the Working Party had agreed on 11 electronic messages for Status 0 (for information) and decided to speed up the activities of the Rapporteurs. As a result, in September 1991, the Working Party conferred the status of United Nations Standard Message (UNSM, Status 2) to 16 new electronic messages, gave Status 1 (draft for formal trial) to 15 new messages and noted 22 new messages at Status 0. At present UN/EDIFACT includes recommendations for 18 standard messages (UNSM) approved for implementation, 16 messages for trial use and 35 messages for information. This means that 69 electronic messages are now at various stages of introduction and cover various dimensions of international trade transactions such as orders, payments, transport, customs, construction, etc.

6. The number of delegations and delegates participating in the activities of the Working Party has increased sharply. At the September 1991 session, the delegation of Israel participated as a new member of the ECE and delegations from Brazil, Gabon and Saudi Arabia also took part for the first time. Representatives from the Republic of Korea will participate at future sessions of the Working Party, that country having been admitted to membership in the United Nations. At the most recent session of the Working Party 160 delegates from 34 countries and 16 international organizations were present.

II. ALLOCATION OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO EDIFACT WORK

7. In its decision 0 (45) the Commission identified trade facilitation as a priority area of work, attaching particular importance to the development of Electronic Data Interchange which would permit significant increases in time/cost efficiency in the conduct of international trade. It recalled its decision J (45) which requested the Executive Secretary to provide, from within existing resources, additional resources in support of the development of UN/EDIFACT. The Executive Secretary has regularly informed the ad hoc informal meetings of the Commission of steps taken and progress achieved in assigning redeployed resources to trade facilitation and EDIFACT work. All recruitment and redeployment procedures to this area of work have now been completed and appointments of regular staff made in the course of the first quarter of 1992.

8. In its decision 0 (45), the Commission also noted with satisfaction the contribution by several Governments and enterprises of extrabudgetary resources for the development and maintenance of UN/EDIFACT, and encouraged their continuation. However, no such contributions to EDIFACT were made in 1991. The Commission may therefore wish to reiterate its encouragement to member Governments and enterprises to provide extrabudgetary resources to EDIFACT trust funds which would be of particular interest to countries in transition and to countries developing from an economic point of view.

III. INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE FACILITATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

9. Taking into consideration the successes achieved by the Working Party and, notably, UN/EDIFACT and the global importance of its field of activity which has received international recognition, the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions selected trade facilitation as a priority area for their cooperative action. At its second regular session in 1989, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1989/113 which, inter alia, invited the regional commissions to formulate, jointly with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and within existing resources, a draft proposal for interregional cooperation in the area of trade facilitation and, in particular, the phased application of EDIFACT, wherever appropriate.

10. The draft proposal which incorporates the objectives, outputs and activities for interregional cooperation to promote UN/EDIFACT comprises four parts: training; networks of trade facilitation activities; UN/EDIFACT promotion and implementation; and regional participation in global facilitation work. It was presented to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1990 and endorsed by the Council in its resolution 1990/74.

11. At its second regular session in July 1991, the Council, recalling its previous resolutions on the subject and conscious of the need for coordinated action at the global level to ensure the effective promotion of international trade facilitation, adopted resolution 1991/76 by which it requested the regional commissions, jointly with UNCTAD, to elaborate specific projects relating to interregional cooperation in this field and present them to bilateral donors and funding organizations. The Council invited the United Nations Development Programme and other funding organizations to consider favourably the projects to be submitted by the regional commissions and UNCTAD. The ECE would be unable to proceed with the activities of the interregional project unless extrabudgetary funds and/or voluntary contributions in kind are made available for that purpose.

12. Noting that a solid foundation for UN/EDIFACT at the regional level should be created before proceeding to the global application of EDIFACT, it is the intention of the secretariat to start with the development of the training component of the regional project applicable to ECE economies in transition as well as to other ECE member countries where international facilitation of trade procedures is still at an early stage.

* * *

13. In the light of the above, the Commission may wish to take note of the Executive Secretary's report E/ECE/1253.

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ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO ASSIST COUNTRIES OF THE REGION IN TRANSITION TO A MARKET ECONOMY AND THEIR INTEGRATION WITH THE EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL ECONOMY

(Paragraph 4 of Commission decision B (46))

Report by the Executive Secretary

1. The present report covers the practical and sectoral activities of the subsidiary bodies and the secretariat, as referred to in paragraph 4 of decision B (46). 1/ In the preamble to decision B (46) the Commission reaffirmed "that the work methods determined to address transition issues should be workshops, symposia and other similar fora which provide the necessary flexibility and informal approach". In that decision the Commission also "invites Governments of the member countries, the European Community and competent international institutions to participate actively in transition-related activities, and encourages them to consider providing continued assistance, on a bilateral or multilateral basis, for promoting such activities" (para. 2).

1/ An account of the implementation of other provisions of decision B (46) is contained in E/ECE/1258.

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2. The present report is divided into two parts:
   A. Workshops, seminars and similar informal activities to assist countries in transition to a market economy and their integration into the European and global economy;
   B. Other activities to assist countries in transition.

3. In carrying out activities to assist countries in transition the Commission and its secretariat have cooperated closely with international organizations and institutions in the region, notably the European Community (EC), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

A. Workshops, seminars and similar informal activities to assist countries in transition to a market economy and their integration into the European and global economy

4. Since the forty-sixth session the Commission has actively continued a major programme of workshops. These have taken various forms, ranging from multilateral meetings on a broad general subject, to assistance to individual countries on a specific issue. A list of the workshops which have been held and those planned is updated and issued at regular intervals. Copies of the latest version will be available to participants at the Commission session. As will be seen from this list, many international, intergovernmental, non-governmental and professional bodies have taken an active part in organizing or sponsoring workshops.

Environment

5. The Workshop on Costing and Funding of Environmental Policies in European Economies in Transition, organized in cooperation with OECD in October 1991, examined the overall economic context in which environmental policies would be developed and implemented in the countries in transition and assessed the opportunities and constraints for environmental policies created by economic restructuring as well as approaches to financing future environmental programmes.

6. Countries in transition have expressed interest in organizing workshops in areas of environmental management, such as:
   - Sewage-sludge treatment in the Moscow region (Russian Federation)
   - Environmental impact assessment (Bulgaria)
   - Application of Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) principles and the concept of assurance of compliance with GLP in particular in countries with economies in transition (Hungary)
   - Economic restructuring and the environment (Hungary)
   - Costing techniques for environmental policies (Russian Federation and Netherlands)

Agriculture

7. A workshop is planned in Belarus to discuss the impact on agriculture of nuclear accidents based on the experience of the Chernobyl accident and, in cooperation with other international organizations, to draw up a framework for action in this field.

8. Other workshops are planned in Hungary and Bulgaria on topics such as farm management and its relationship to food marketing and exports, and means of bringing collective farms into viable market-oriented units.

9. The ECE is also currently exploring the possibilities of workshops in cooperation with INSTRAW on an exchange project involving women farmers in Hungary and Bulgaria with their counterparts in the American midwest. The objective is to introduce the Bulgarian and Hungarian women to farm operations in a market economy.

Human settlements

10. Six workshops have been held to assist countries in transition to reformulate their housing, land-use and building policies to market economy approaches. Three main aspects were considered: financial arrangements, land management and construction activity. Questions of housing and shelter are important for improving the quality of life and enhancing economic development. The workshop held in Minsk (Belarus) in December 1991 on resettlement of population focused on the consequences of the Chernobyl accident.

11. The Russian Federation will organize two workshops in 1992, one on urban renewal and modernization and the other on privatization in the housing and building sectors.

12. Using the results of the workshops, a summary report on housing policy guidelines was prepared to facilitate access to the accumulated information for Governments and decision-makers in different countries. This information has been translated by some countries into their native languages, to ensure local dissemination of the workshop results.

Industrial development

13. Additional workshops on the rational use of raw materials in the chemical industry and the adjustment of engineering industries in economies in transition are being considered, as well as a workshop on the establishment and operation of national chemical industry federations.

14. A regional workshop on state policy in economies in transition aimed at promoting innovation will be held in Poland in 1992, and its results will be considered by the Senior Advisers on Science and Technology.

15. A study tour will be organized in September 1992 on the chemical industry in Romania in conjunction with a workshop on the rational use of raw materials and energy in the chemical industry.

16. Workshops on the most pressing problems of standardization, conformity assessment and quality control have been held in Romania and Bulgaria. They focused on international trade, European norms and international quality standards to improve the competitiveness of products of countries in transition.

Trade and development finance

17. A workshop on the management of east-west joint ventures (Vienna (Austria), May 1991) provided an exchange of views between management-training practitioners who are assisting joint ventures and management personnel in the east. It emphasized the need for up-to-date information on government funding for management training in eastern Europe, availability of training programmes and an evaluation of the various training approaches to help enterprises to use their funds to the best effect.

18. A workshop in Romania on foreign trade and payment reforms in the economies in transition compared experiences of other countries in liberalizing the external sector and offered Romanian specialists an opportunity to exchange views with foreign experts. Conclusions were drawn on the policy and implications of dismantling the foreign trade monopoly, the process of convertibility to the domestic currency and export promotion policy.

19. The Committee on the Development of Trade suggested as themes for workshops: the legislative changes required to promote the privatization process in the countries in transition; and the implications of privatization, including the role of small and medium-sized enterprises, for international trade and investments. A workshop on a guide for training east-west joint ventures managers will be held, probably in Rome (Italy), as a follow-up to the Vienna Workshop on East-West Joint Ventures Management.

Energy

20. A consultation on the restructuring of the Energy/Electric Power Sector in Slovenia was held in September 1991.

21. Preparations started for workshops on adaptation of electricity tariffs, development of electric power systems and public acceptance and market adaptation of energy-intensive industries in central and eastern Europe.

Transport, communications and tourism

22. The workshops held so far have allowed experts from countries in transition to profit from the experience of western countries in managing the transport sector under market conditions and have permitted discussion in an informal atmosphere of ways to dismantle barriers to international inland transport and ultimately to the integration of central and east European countries' transport industry into an all-European transport system.

23. More workshops are envisaged for 1992 on: strategic planning of transport development; user-oriented transport information systems in central and east European countries; the responsibilities of both Governments and railway companies; administrative and technical difficulties encountered at border crossings in international road transport.

Statistics

24. A workshop on problems associated with the planning and holding of agricultural censuses is under preparation (with FAO, Eurostat, OECD) in

Bulgaria. A further workshop on the evaluation of results of transition in statistical offices is being prepared with the Romanian National Commission of Statistics. Both events will benefit from EC PHARE funds.

B. Other activities to assist countries in transition

25. The ECE has produced practical guides and handbooks on subjects such as joint ventures and private investment as well as studies devoted to problems of transition to a market economy. Projects on infrastructure in the fields of transport and energy, consultations and policy recommendations, demonstrations and pilot projects in various fields are other forms of long-standing assistance to the countries in question.

26. Another initiative to meet a recently recognized need is the identification and collection of technical literature from western sources and their transmittal to bodies and organizations in transition countries which have been deprived of access to such "instructional material" for many years, and which cannot afford to purchase them. This has already been done quite extensively to assist the Central Statistical Offices in transition countries.

27. A special feature of the ECE activities is the elaboration of regionwide legally binding instruments such as conventions and protocols, especially in the fields of transport and environment, and the elaboration of regionwide standards which have already proved a useful tool in facilitating the integration of the transition countries into the European and world economy.

28. In evaluating the effectiveness of the workshops, representatives of transition countries have expressed satisfaction inasmuch as the workshops have been instrumental in identifying specific themes and possible solutions. They have at the same time expressed great interest in pursuing further steps of practical assistance. This could take two forms.

29. Firstly, the ECE programme of workshops could be complemented by expert advisory services. This would entail missions to individual countries in transition by an expert or a small team of experts in very specific topics identified by the countries in transition or during the workshops. The missions would aim to bring experts face to face as well as providing advice for policy-makers.

30. Secondly, training courses could be organized for nationals of countries in transition, again focusing on issues identified by those countries or emerging from workshops. This has already taken place in the sectors of human settlements, the steel industry and energy, where training topics have figured among the outputs of workshops and other informal meetings. This form of training would also include retraining associated with the restructuring and conversion of industries and the training of trainers to reinforce national capacity building in the transition countries.

31. ECE secretariat resources alone are not sufficient to provide either the advisory services or the training of this kind. It could, however, play a significant role in securing the services of experts for advisory missions in close cooperation with UN programmes such as DTCD, ITC, UNIDO and UNDP. It could also develop a roster of experts both from its intergovernmental bodies

and its former staff and consultants who are available for work of this kind. The services of volunteers through such programmes as UN Volunteers and UNDP/UNISTAR and TOKTEN could also be invited to contribute. In the area of training for the countries in transition the ECE secretariat could provide technical back-stopping for programmes which could be organized by UN organizations (such as the ILO, ITC, UNIDO, UNCHS, etc.) or other institutions with expertise in training.

32. While it may prove difficult to coordinate the activities of a wide range of United Nations programmes designed to assist countries in transition, every consideration should be given to establishing clusters of organizations which specialize in a particular sector. In the area of trade, for example, ECE could form a cluster with UNCTAD and ITC; in the energy area it would cooperate with DTCD; in human settlements with UNCHS. This form of targeted cooperation could yield results in a short period of time. Preliminary discussions with those bodies have produced very positive results.

33. To support this broader approach to assistance within the framework of ECE to the countries in transition, further consideration should be given to the establishment of a cooperation trust fund to which donor governments, institutions, organizations and enterprises could make cash contributions or contributions in kind, earmarked for workshops, expert advisory services or training.

Development issues and policies

34. The Senior Economic Advisers, in May 1991, discussed sequencing of the structural reforms and macroeconomic policies required for the transition to the market system. They adopted recommendations including the view that macroeconomic stabilization was the top priority among economic reforms and that the initial "critical" mass needed to be implemented simultaneously in order to ensure a successful launch of the reform process. They formulated the most important components of the transition programme. The Senior Economic Advisers also agreed that ECE represented a useful forum for an objective evaluation of transition policies and issues.

35. During that session a roundtable was organized focusing on Five Years of Perestroika - Results, Problems, Prospects.

36. The views expressed in the Economic Survey of Europe and the Economic Bulletin for Europe have had a significant impact on economic policy and methodological thinking in the transition countries, which is confirmed by a number of requests for more detailed explanations received by the secretariat from researchers and government officials of the transition countries.

Food and agriculture (including forestry products)

(a) Agriculture

37. Activities of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development are aimed partly at aiding the countries in transition with technical advice on improving the quality of their agricultural produce for home markets and eventually for export markets.

38. The FAO/ECE/CES Study Group on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe is implementing projects related to the introduction of new agricultural statistics in transition countries.

39. Looking beyond the short-term difficulties associated with food shortages and distribution problems, the Committee on Agriculture can provide valuable assistance to the countries concerned in their efforts to improve agricultural productivity and efficiency through restructuring of agricultural enterprises, including privatization and other types of agrarian reform, as well as of the food-processing and distribution industries. Measures would include the introduction of efficient equipment and technical and managerial systems, based on experience in market economy countries.

(b) Timber

40. An expert meeting will be held in Belarus in March 1992 to assess the impact of the nuclear radiation from the Chernobyl accident on forest resources in the region, including the Russian Federation, Belarus and Ukraine, with the participation of other international organizations, including IAEA, UNESCO and ILO. It will make recommendations on measures to rehabilitate damaged forests, prevent further dispersal of radiation, protect forest workers who have to work in affected areas and to afforest damaged agricultural land no longer fit for food production.

41. Activities of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics include a project on assistance to transition countries for the improvement of the quality of statistics on forests, forest industries and products as part of a programme to improve the information base of the sector, in particular to develop databases and improve data collection systems.

42. The fifth in the series of long-term studies of European timber trends and prospects will devote special attention to methodologies for the assessment of forest products supply and demand forecasts for the countries in transition and an assessment of trade prospects.

43. At a seminar on new technologies and markets for wood-based panels, held in Poland in 1991, special attention was given to the possibilities for strengthening east-west cooperation in the rejuvenation and development of these industries in the transition countries through such initiatives as joint ventures, exchange of experts and know-how, investment, training, etc.

Environment

44. Policy recommendations elaborated by the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems are of interest for countries in transition in improving their environmental management and performance. Special mention should be made of those on: the reduction, replacement, recovery, recycling and re-utilization of industrial wastes; ecosystems based water management, and protection of inland waters against eutrophication. Also relevant is the draft code of practice for the conservation of threatened animals and plants and other species of international significance.

45. The Senior Advisers are cooperating with OECD to promote the application to the ECE region as a whole of systems, guidelines, recommendations and practices for environmental management, established by OECD for its member countries. Meetings were organized in 1991 in cooperation with OECD on Regional Cooperation for the Management of Hazardous Chemicals and on Economic Instruments for Environmental Policies for Countries in Transition.

46. Participation in the elaboration and implementation of ECE conventions is important for the improvement of the environmental situation in countries in transition:

- Under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP), a Working Group on Technology will deal with information exchange, training and cooperation on technology, trade and financial issues concerning countries in transition;

- The Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context was signed by nine transition countries and Albania has ratified it;

- Countries in transition participated actively in the elaboration of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

47. The Senior Advisers prepare an annual report on initiatives and existing projects in the field of bilateral and multilateral financial cooperation in the ECE region which addresses particularly assistance to countries in transition.

48. The Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics, in December 1991, considered a report on "the environment in the former USSR: economics and ecology" and evaluated the current situation in this respect. A similar report on Czechoslovakia will be considered by the Joint Working Group at its next session.

Industrial development

49. A Seminar on the Restructuration and Management Techniques in Steel Industries in Countries in Transition Towards Market-Economy Conditions will be held in May 1992 in Poland and in October 1992 another will be held in Ukraine on New Materials and their Application in Engineering Industries. The secretariat is providing assistance to the Government of Belarus on the privatization of a large state-owned ball-bearing manufacturer.

50. The Senior Advisers on Science and Technology held a forum discussion on the organization and management of R & D in economies in transition and will hold another on the managerial aspects and the relationship between national and federal/regional bodies, including governmental and non-governmental bodies, in promoting innovation.

International trade

51. The Committee on the Development of Trade (December 1991) held a Roundtable discussion on the problems and prospects of trade, payments and investment among the economies in transition.

52. A regional project is being prepared within the framework of the interregional cooperation project for the facilitation of international trade. It emphasizes the training component applicable to ECE economies in transition as well as to other member countries where international facilitation of trade procedures is still at an early stage.

53. The Committee decided on the preparation of a study on the role of small and medium-sized enterprises in the economies in transition and the promotion of conditions for their greater participation in intraregional trade. A seminar on foreign direct investment in the ECE region is under preparation.

54. The Committee is preparing a study on promoting foreign direct investment in the ECE region. This study includes chapters on recent trends in foreign direct investment; institutional and financial conditions; the new capital and property markets; privatization and deconcentration; forms of investment incentive; regulations in the economies in transition on foreign investment; free-economic zones; investment protection and double-taxation treaties; and the immediate future.

55. The Working Party on International Contract Practices is preparing a Guide on legal aspects of privatization in industry, to assist countries in transition to establish a suitable framework for privatization. The Guide outlines the problems most likely to arise in the course of privatizing state-owned enterprises; the laws and institutions which will be required; and the methods that can be used in the privatization process.

56. Four numbers of the East-West Joint Ventures News were issued, containing the latest information on regulations concerning this fast-changing aspect of east-west business, as well as a breakdown of statistical data.

Energy

57. As a follow-up to the Bergen Conference on Sustainable Development, ECE has launched a programme called Energy Efficiency 2000. The programme aims, through a series of practical measures with the involvement of the private sector and Governments, to close the energy gap between energy conservation technologies applied in western industry and the energy-intensive industries in transition countries. The programme has been well received by transition countries and enjoys the strong support of donor countries.

58. A study on "Energy Reforms in Central and Eastern Europe - The First Year" was issued in 1991 (ECE ENERGY Series No.7). Studies or documents on practical problems of energy reforms in that region were prepared such as:

- Concentration of coal mining activities in Europe; a prerequisite for moving to market operation (ENERGY/WP.1/R.10);
- Review of the present and future energy situation in the Baltic States (ENERGY/R.64/Add.1).

Transport

59. A number of the countries in transition participate in the Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) project. The ECE secretariat, as Executing Agency, has organized training courses, seminars, workshops, etc. related to the project outputs for the countries in central and eastern Europe.

60. Activities carried out within the Trans-European North-South Railway (TER) project also assist central and east European countries in their transition to a market economy. An inventory of the main data describing the existing situation in the TER countries is being undertaken regarding such items as the TER network topology, present equipment, performance parameters, border stations, ferry-boat connections and application of intermodal techniques. A meeting is being organized on a railway data-base system.

61. The ECE and the Commission of the European Communities have carried out an assessment of transport infrastructure needs in the light of east European development which provides a first overview of these needs in eastern Europe.

62. The ECE Regional Transport Adviser has visited a number of countries in transition which have requested assistance on transport subjects related to infrastructure, planning, operations and management.

63. To assist central and east European countries to overcome transition problems in the field of transport statistics, a Guide to the compilation of transport statistics in market economies was drawn up.

Statistics

64. The transition programmes of the Conference of European Statisticians for Bulgaria, Hungary and Poland were updated and pursued, mainly with regard to the improvement of the infrastructure for the production of economic statistics.

65. At the request of Eurostat, the ECE secretariat has provided advisory assistance to the Romanian National Commission for Statistics in the field of environment statistics in the framework of the PHARE programme.

66. Volumes of reference material for staff in statistical offices of transition countries were prepared in the fields of transport and agricultural statistics. Further volumes are under preparation on data editing and on selected issues of environment statistics (emission estimates and materials balances). An extensive glossary of terms used in statistical offices of market economies is being elaborated for distribution to transition countries.

67. A Steering Document giving an overview of the direction, problems and strategy of statistical transition permits members of the Conference to follow closely the national transition processes and document the results of transition work. A revised version in early 1992 increased its coverage to include the three Baltic states, and food and agriculture statistics. Another revision will be issued in spring 1992. Further issues of the Newsletter on Transition Projects were published.

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COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. Since its forty-sixth session the Commission and its secretariat, in response to Commission decision 0 (45), have further strengthened their cooperation and coordination of activities with other international economic organizations and institutions, including bodies of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. This cooperation and coordination continues to be an important feature of the Commission's methods of work to ensure the optimum use of resources and expertise and to avoid duplication of activities. The wide range of organizations with which ECE cooperates reflects the dual capacity of the ECE as a United Nations programme and a regional body cooperating closely with other European institutions.

2. This note is divided into three parts. The first provides a detailed account of ECE's cooperation with organizations and institutions with which the ECE is encouraged to intensify its cooperation and coordination under the terms of decision 0 (45). They are as follows: the European Community, OECD, EBRD, IMF, IBRD and GATT. The second part presents in the form of a synoptic table ECE's cooperation with other international and intergovernmental organizations. Part three contains a list of non-governmental organizations which have participated actively in the work of the ECE since the forty-sixth session.

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PART I

3. EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTION

The Executive Secretary has, since the forty-sixth session, met with the Vice-President of the Commission responsible for External Relations, the Head of Eurostat and other senior officials of the Commission.

As a follow-up to decision B (46), he has written to the Vice-President of the Commission and to the Director-General for External Relations.

ENVIRONMENT

The European Community has participated in the following ECE activities

- Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems
- Working Party on Water Problems: Special sessions to Elaborate a Draft Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
- Working Group to Elaborate a Draft Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents
- Working Party on Low- and Non-waste Technology and Re-utilization and Recycling of Wastes
- Task force on the Application of EIA Principles to Policies, Plans and Programmes
- Meeting of the Signatories to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context
- Working Group on Abatement Strategies
- Working Group on Effects
- Steering Body to EMEP
- Working Group on Volatile Organic Compounds
- International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests
- EMEP Workshop on Emission Inventory Techniques
- Fifth Seminar on Emission Control Technology for Stationary Sources
- Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling (CEC sponsored model comparison exercises)
- Seminar on Planning for Sustainable Tourism Development

ECE has participated in the following activities of the European Community:

- Orientation Meeting on "Environment for Europe"
- Meeting of the Task force on the Danube River Environmental Programme
- Preparation for a Report on the State of the Environment in Europe

ECE has held working level consultations with the European Community on:

- Harmonization of Emission Inventories between EMEP and CORINAIR

TRANSPORT

The European Community has participated in the following ECE activities

- Inland Transport Committee
- Principal Working Party on Road Transport

- Working Party on Road Traffic Safety
- Ad hoc Meeting on the Implementation of the Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR)
- Principal Working Party on Rail Transport
- Principal Working Party on Inland Water Transport
- Working Party on Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation
- Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
- Joint Meeting of the RID Safety Committee and the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
- Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
- Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles
- Administrative Committee for the Coordination of Work of the Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles
- Meeting of Experts on Pollution and Energy
- Meeting of Experts on Noise
- Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport
- Working Party on Combined Transport
- Working Party on Transport Statistics
- Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics
- Workshop on Market adaptation of the inland navigation industry in eastern and central Europe and its integration into an all-European transport system (Budapest, Hungary)

ECE has participated in the following activities of the European Community:

- Motorway Working Group
- COST/EURET Programme Concerted Action 3.1 and 3.2
- High-level Group on Combined Transport
- Pan-European Transport Conference (Prague, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic)
- G-24 Group: ad hoc group on transport
- Working Party on Inland Waterway Network
- Ministerial Conference on the Most Timely Issues of European Inland Waterway Transportation (Budapest, Hungary)
- Assessment of transport infrastructure needs in the light of east European development

ECE has held working level consultations with the European Community on:

- Infrastructure networks
- Revision of the 1958 Agreement
- Preparation of a study on the requirements of inland water transport for combined transport services
- Establishment of the European Network of Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN)
- Cost 315 project, dimensions of loading units in combined transport

Other cooperation with EC:

- Steering Committee of the Pan-European Transport Conference
- Establishment of an Intersecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics (ECE, EC, ECMT)

STATISTICS

Eurostat has participated in the following ECE activities

- Statistical metadata (METIS)
- International standards for statistical electronic data interchange (EDI)
- Statistics of the hidden economy
- Agricultural statistics
- Statistics of services
- Statistics of household income
- Consumer prices
- European Comparison Programme
- Migration statistics
- Population and housing censuses
- Statistics of women
- Human settlements statistics
- Energy statistics
- Water quality statistics
- Wastes and recycling statistics
- Environmental economics
- Specific methodological issues of environment statistics
- Meetings of the Bureau of the CES

ECE has participated in the following activities of Eurostat:

- Conference of the Directors General of National Statistical Institutes
- Development of international standards for statistical EDI
- Revision of the European System of Accounting
- Migration statistics
- Environment statistics.

ECE has held working level consultations with Eurostat on:

- Promotion of coordination of international statistical work (Joint Programme Review)
- Statistical metadata
- Migration statistics
- Energy statistics
- Development of an International Environmental Data Service (IEDS).

Other cooperation with Eurostat:

- Adaptation of statistical services to transition and integration processes in Europe
- Tripartite Intersecretariat Working Group on Coordination of Statistical Activities by International Organizations in Central and East European Countries, with Eurostat and OECD.

TRADE FACILITATION AND PROMOTION

The European Community has participated in the following ECE activities

- Committee on the Development of Trade
- Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures

ECE has participated in the following activities of the European Community:

- Eurostat Working Group of MD6 (EDIFACT/Statistics)
- Various meetings with DG.XII on EDIFACT development.

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

The European Community has participated in the following ECE activities:
- Senior Economic Advisers
- Round-table discussion on results, problems and prospects of Perestroika
- Expert Group Meeting on International Migration

ECE has held working level consultations with the European Community on:
- Current developments and short-term prospects in the transition countries
- Problems of and progress in the transition to the market economy in central and eastern Europe
- Provision and exchange of data on developments in central and eastern Europe

Other cooperation with the European Community:
- ECE regularly supplies several European Community departments with its analytical documents already at their pre-publication stage
- The European Community supplies the ECE secretariat with information concerning the assistance supplied by the Commission and its member countries to the economies in transition.

ENERGY

The European Community has participated in the following ECE activities:
- Committee on Energy
- Steering Committee, Energy Efficiency 2000 Project
- Ad hoc Meeting on Energy Efficiency Standards
- Working Party on Coal
- Meeting of Experts on Productivity and Management Problems in the Coal Industry
- Meeting of Experts on the Utilization and Preparation of Solid Fuels
- Workshop on the Market Adaptation of the Coal Industry (Esztergom, Hungary)
- Working Party on Electric Power
- (through EIB) various meetings of the Working Group on the Interconnection and Extension of Gas Networks in Europe

ECE has participated in the following activities of the European Community:
- G-24 Working Group on Energy
- Informal Meeting of Experts on Electricity, under the auspices of the G-24 Working Group on Energy
- Negotiating Conference on a European Energy Charter (various sessions, Brussels, 1991); Signing Conference, The Hague (Netherlands); Working Party sessions on energy efficiency and on hydrocarbons after adoption of the Charter.

ECE has held working level consultations with the European Community on:
- Inter-agency coordination in the field of energy.

AGRICULTURE AND TIMBER

The European Community has participated in the following ECE activities:
- Committee on Agriculture
- Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development, and its Meetings of Experts on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables and of Meat

- Working Party on Relations between Agriculture and the Environment
- FAO/ECE Study Group on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe
- Timber Committee
- Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics
- Seminar on Forest Fire Prevention, Land-use and People

ECE has participated in the following activities of the European Community:
- Agro-Industrial and Forestry Research and Technological days (Exhibition and Conference) of the GD XII

ECE has held working level consultations with the European Community on:
- Revision of UN/ECE Standards for perishable produce
- Harmonization of statistical questionnaires on agriculture sent by various international organizations (inter-secretariat working group IWG/AGRI)
- Revision of the Customs Nomenclature and Tarification of Heading 44.03 of the Harmonized System
- Establishment of a unified framework and database for forest fire statistics

Other cooperation with the European Community:
- Informal meeting on possibilities for cooperation in assistance to countries of central and eastern Europe in transition (DG I of the European Community, Directorate for the PHARE Programme).

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

The European Community has participated in the following ECE activities:
- Symposium on Sustainable Tourism Development
- Joint Work Session on Housing Statistics

ECE has held working level consultations with the European Community on:
- Continuation of cooperation in the field of planning for sustainable tourism development

INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY

The European Community has participated in the following ECE activities:
- Working Party on the Chemical Industry
- High-level Meeting on Cooperation and Sustainable Development in the Chemical Industries
- Second Worksho[illegible] Rehabilitation Engineering: REHAB-2
- Working Party o[illegible]teel
- Meeting of Exper[illegible]on Steel Statistics
- Meeting of Experts on the Steel Market
- Ad hoc Meeting on the Current Market Developments in the Iron and Steel Industry
- Workshop on the USSR Steel Industry in Transition Towards Market-Economy Conditions (Moscow, USSR)
- Workshop on the Restructuring of the Romanian Steel Industry (Bucharest, Romania
- Seminar on Producers' and Users' Metallurgical Requirements in the Welding of Steel Products (Kiev, Ukraine)
- Preparatory Meeting for the Seminar on Restructuration and Management Techniques in Steel Industries in Countries in Transition to Market-economy Conditions
- Senior Advisers on Science and Technology

ECE has held working level consultations with the European Community on:
- Statistics - Assistance to countries in transition
- Steel Market developments
- Programme of activities

4. ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTION

The Executive Secretary has, since the forty-sixth session, met with the Assistant-Secretary-General, Director of the Centre for Cooperation with European Economies in Transition; Deputy-Secretary-General responsible for Statistics.

As a follow-up to decision B (46) he has written to the Secretary-General of OECD.

ENVIRONMENT

OECD has participated in the following ECE activities
- Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems
- Working Group to Elaborate a Draft Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents
- Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics
- Workshop on Macro-economic Implications of Environmental Policies
- Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

ECE has participated in the following activities of OECD:
- Special Session of the Environment Committee (on accidents involving hazardous substances)
- Environment Committee
- Joint Meeting of the Chemical Group and Management Committee
- Group of Economic Experts
- Environment Committee Meeting at Ministerial Level

ECE has held working level consultations with OECD on:
- Preparation of the ad hoc Meeting on Regional Cooperation for the Management of Hazardous Chemicals
- Preparation of the Workshop on Costing and Funding of Environmental Policies in European Countries in Transition

Other cooperation with OECD:
Meetings under the auspices of the ECE organized in cooperation with OECD
- Ad hoc Meeting on Regional Cooperation for the Management of Hazardous Chemicals
- Ad hoc Meeting on Economic Instruments for Environmental Instruments for Countries in Transition
- Workshop on Costing and funding of Environmental Policies in European Countries in Transition

TRANSPORT

ECE has participated in the following activities of OECD:
- Workshop on certain aspects of the classification of chemicals

STATISTICS

OECD has participated in the following ECE activities
- Statistics of the hidden economy
- Agricultural statistics
- Statistics of services
- Statistics of household income
- European Comparison Programme
- Migration statistics
- Statistics of women
- Energy statistics (OECD/IEA)
- Water quality statistics
- Environmental economics
- Meetings of the Bureau of the CES

ECE has participated in the following activities of OECD:
- Statistics of services
- Working Party on SNA

ECE has held working level consultations with OECD on:
- Promotion of coordination of international statistical work (Joint Programme Review)

Other cooperation with OECD:
- Adaptation of statistical services to transition and integration processes in Europe
- Tripartite Intersecretariat Working Group on Coordination of Statistical Activities by International Organizations in Central and East European Countries, with OECD and Eurostat.

TRADE FACILITATION AND PROMOTION

OECD has participated in the following ECE activities
- Committee on the Development of Trade
- Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industry

ECE has participated in the following activities of OECD:
- Meeting of MD6 (Statistics): EDIFACT Development

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

ECE has participated in the following activities of OECD:
- Meetings of financial experts on central and eastern Europe
- Economic Development and Review Committee (meeting to review the Hungarian economy)
- Group of Economic Experts on Environment
- Special Meeting to review the Soviet economy
- Meeting of experts on the economic situation and reform prospects in the Baltic countries

ECE has held working level consultations with OECD on:
- Economic developments and prospects in central and eastern Europe
- Problems of and progress in transition to the market economy
- Statistics of the transition countries
- Financial situation in the transition countries
- Labour productivity in the western market economies

Other cooperation with OECD:
- Close cooperation with the OECD based Centre for Cooperation with the European Economies in Transition

ENERGY

OECD/IEA has participated in the following ECE activities:
- Steering Committee for the "Energy Efficiency 2000" Project
- Ad hoc Meeting on Energy Efficiency Standards
- Preparatory meeting for the Symposium on the Environmental Benefits of Energy Conservation and for Energy Efficiency Demonstration Zones
- Working Party on Coal
- Meeting of Experts on Coal Trade, Statistics and Transport
- Workshop on the Market Adaptation of the Coal Industry (Esztergom, Hungary)
- Working Party on Electric Power

ECE has participated in the following activities of OECD/IEA:
- Organizing Committee for an International Conference on Energy Technology Transfer (Paris)
- Seminar on East-West Energy Trade (Vienna)
- Washington Conference, Energy Group Meeting (Paris)

ECE has held working level consultations with OECD/IEA on:
- ECE contribution to IEA Seminar on East-West Energy Trade (Vienna)

AGRICULTURE AND TIMBER

OECD has participated in the following ECE activities:
- Committee on Agriculture
- Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development, and its Meeting of Experts on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
- Working Party on Relations between Agriculture and the Environment

ECE has participated in the following activities of OECD:
- Committee for Agriculture
- Working Party on Meat and Dairy Products
- OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables
- Workshop on technology and sustainable agriculture

ECE has held working level consultations with OECD on:
- Harmonization of statistical questionnaires on agriculture sent by various international organizations (Intersecretariat working group IWG/AGRI)

Other cooperation with OECD:
- Exchange of information on statistical matters concerning Timber

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

OECD has participated in the following ECE activities
- Working Party on Urban and Regional Planning and Research

ECE has held working level consultations with OECD on:
- OECD contribution to future ECE housing workshops
- ECE contribution to OECD project group on Housing, Social Integration and Livable Environment in Cities

INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY

OECD has participated in the following ECE activities
- Working Party on the Chemical Industry
- Meeting on Questions of Statistics concerning Engineering Industries and Automation
- Working Party on Steel
- Meeting of Experts on the Steel Market
- Meeting of Experts on Steel Statistics
- Preparatory Meeting for the Seminar on Restructuration and Management Techniques in Steel Industries in Countries in Transition to Market-economy Conditions
- Study tour of the French Steel Industry
- Informal meeting of secretariats on Steel Statistics
- Senior Advisers on Science and Technology

ECE has participated in the following activities of OECD:
- Joint Meeting of the Chemical Group and Management Committee
- WP No. 9 of the Industry Committee, Industrial Statistics
- OECD Training seminar on science and technology statistics for experts from the economies in transition

ECE has held working level consultations with OECD on:
- Joint ECE/OECD questionnaires
- Exchange of databases
- Back-to-back meetings on statistics concerning engineering industries and automation
- Steel statistics: collection of information, investments and capacities
- Programme and activities - standardization of steel statistics
- Topics of Seminars (steel)
- Science and technology statistics in the economies in transition
- National science and technology policy principles for the next quadrennial period of changes in overall policy to be held in September 1992

Other cooperation with OECD:
- Following OECD's discontinuence of its statistical publication on the chemical industry in 1980, ECE has been producing the only comprehenisve annual statistics on the chemical industry
- R & D statistics

5. EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (EBRD)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTION

The Executive Secretary has, since the forty-sixth session, held consultations with Vice-Presidents Freeman and Carcinelli, as well as other senior officials of the Bank.

As a follow-up to decision B (46), he has written to the President of the EBRD. He has also corresponded with the Secretary-General of the Bank.

TRANSPORT

EBRD has participated in the following ECE activities
- Workshop on Market adaptation of the inland navigation industry in central and eastern Europe and its integration into an all-European transport system (Budapest, Hungary)

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

ECE has participated in the following activities of EBRD:
- Conference on East European Trade Policy Issues

ECE has held working level consultations with EBRD on:
- Current economic developments and short-term prospects of the transition countries
- Transformation process in entral and eastern Europe
- Data collection and dissemination on the transition countries
- In-depth analysis in individual countries in transition

Other cooperation with EBRD:
- Regular supply to EBRD of the ECE analytical documents at the preliminary (pre-publication) stage
- Exchange of country reports on individual economies in transition.

ENERGY

EBRD has participated in the following ECE activities
- Steering Committee, Energy Efficiency 2000 Project

ECE has held working level consultations with EBRD on:
- Inter-agency cooperation in the energy field.

6. INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTION

The Executive Secretary has, since the forty-sixth session, held consultations with senior economists of the Fund.

As a follow-up to decision B (46), he has written to the President of the IMF.

ENVIRONMENT

IMF has participated in the following ECE activities
- Ad hoc Meeting on Economic Instruments for Environmental Instruments for Countries in Transition
- Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

ECE has held working level consultations with IMF on:
- Current economic developments and short-term prospects of the transition countries
- Transformation from centrally-planned to market economy in central and eastern Europe
- Foreign trade of central and east European countries

7. INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (IBRD)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTION

The Executive Secretary has, since the forty-sixth session, met with the Vice-President for Europe and Central Asia, as well as with the Director of the Technical Department.

As a follow-up to decision B (46), he has written to the President of IBRD.

STATISTICS

IBRD has participated in the following ECE activities
- European Comparison Programme

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

IBRD has participated in the following ECE activities
- Senior Economic Advisers

ECE has held working level consultations with IBRD on:
- Foreign trade of the central and east European countries
- Transformation of centrally-planned into market economies

Other cooperation with IBRD:
- Exchange of analytical documents from the ECE side at the prepublication stage

ENERGY

IBRD has participated in the following ECE activities
- Working Party on Electric Power

ECE has held working level consultations with IBRD on:
- IBRD CEENERGY programme related to the economies in transition
- Inter-agency Cooperation on Electric Power Interconnections in Europe

AGRICULTURE AND TIMBER

IBRD has participated in the following ECE activities
- Workshop on organization and management of forestry under market economy conditions (Budapest, Hungary)

Other cooperation with IBRD:
- Regular exchange of information on matters related to the forestry and forest products sector

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

ECE has participated in the following activities of IBRD:
- Workshop on unclear property rights and access to land

ECE has held working level consultations with IBRD on:
- Cooperation in assisting countries in transition in the housing field

8. GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTION

As a follow-up to decision B (46), he has written to the Director-General of GATT.

TRADE FACILITATION AND PROMOTION

GATT has participated in the following ECE activities
- Committee on the Development of Trade
- Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures

ECE has participated in the following activities of GATT:
- Sessions of the Contracting Parties, of the Council of Representatives and of Working Parties dealing with the trade policy review mechanisms and the review of the terms of accession of certain ECE countries to GATT

AGRICULTURE AND TIMBER

GATT has participated in the following ECE activities
- Committee on Agriculture
- Working Party on Relations between Agriculture and the Environment

ECE has participated in the following activities of GATT:
- Meeting on International Dairy Agreement
- International Dairy Products Council
- International Meat Council

INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY

GATT has participated in the following ECE activities
- Working Party on Steel

ECE has held working level consultations with GATT on:
- Steel market developments
- Programme of activities on steel

PART II

Programme category	United Nations	Agencies of the UN system	Intergovernmental organizations and institutions
Executive Direction	Department of Economic and Social Development (DESD)	International Labour Organization (ILO)	Council of Europe
	UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)	European Free Trade Association (EFTA)
	UN Development Programme (UNDP)	International Telecommunication Union (ITU)	
	UN Environment Programme (UNEP)	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	
	UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	
	UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)		
	Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)		
	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)		
	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)		
	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)		
	UN Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT)		

Programme category	United Nations	Agencies of the UN system	Intergovernmental organizations and institutions
Environment	UNEP, UNDP, UNCTAD, HABITAT, UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)	ILO, FAO, UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), UNIDO, IAEA,	World Tourism Organization (WTO), Danube Commission, EFTA, Nordic Council, Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM), Oslo/Paris Commission, European Investment Bank, Nordic Investment Bank
Transport	ESCAP, UNCTAD, UNEP, UNDP UNCED	ILO, FAO, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), WHO, IMO, IAEA	Danube Commission, EFTA, European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT), Customs Cooperation Council (CCC), International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR), Central Office for International Railway Transport (OCTI), Committee of the Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSZhD)
Statistics	UNCTAD, UNEP, UNDP, International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)	ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, WMO	Inter-American Development Bank, CCC, EFTA, Nordic Statistical Secretariat, HELCOM
Trade facilitation and promotion	ESCAP, UNCTAD, UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)	ILO, Universal Postal Union (UPU), IMO, UNIDO	CCC, OCTI, EFTA

Programme category	United Nations	Agencies of the UN system	Intergovernmental organizations and institutions
Economic analysis	DESD, UN Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (UNCSDHA), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNCTAD, UNFPA, World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU/WIDER), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)	ILO, UNESCO, IMO, UNIDO	Council of Europe, EFTA
Energy	DESD, UNDP, ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA	ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WMO, UNIDO, IAEA	
Agriculture and timber	UNCTAD, UNEP, INSTRAW, UNCED	ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, WMO/IPCC, UNIDO, IAEA	Council of Europe, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), CCC
Human Settlements	HABITAT	ILO, WHO	Council of Europe, WTO, Nordic Council of Ministers
Industry and technology	DESD, UNCTAD, UNEP, UN Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO)	ILO, UNESCO, WHO, UNIDO	EFTA, Intermetal, International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML)

PART III

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVING CO-OPERATED WITH THE COMMISSION AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

Non-governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with ECOSOC

CATEGORY I

International Chamber of Commerce
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
International Organization for Standardization
Soroptimist International
World Federation of Trade Unions
World Federation of United Nations Associations

CATEGORY II

Greenpeace International Council
International Air Transport Association
International Automobile Federation
International Bar Association
International Chamber of Shipping
International Council for Building Research, Studies and Documentation
International Council of Environmental Law
International Electrotechnical Commission
International Federation of Industrial Energy Consumers
International Federation for Housing and Planning
International Motor Vehicle Inspection Committee
International Road Federation
International Road Transport Union
International Touring Alliance
International Union for Inland Navigation
International Union of Architects
International Union of Producers and Distributors of Electrical Energy
International Union of Public Transport
Permanent International Association of Road Congresses
World Coal Institute
World Conservation Union
World Energy Council
World LPG Forum
World Resources Institute

ROSTER

European Chemical Industry Council
European Confederation of Agriculture
European Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association
International Association of Classification Societies
International Container Bureau
International Data Exchange Association
International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations
International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering

Roster (cont.)

International Federation of Robotics
International Gas Union
International Iron and Steel Institute
International Motorcycle Manufacturers' Association
International New Towns Association
International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers
International Real Estate Federation
International Transport Workers' Federation
International Union of Building Centres
International Union of Forestry Research Organizations
International Union of Tenants
World Mining Congress

Other non-governmental organizations

Auto Emissions Control by Catalyst
Brussels Working Party, 1952
Central Dispatching Office of the Unified Power Systems
CONCAWE
Confederation of Importers and Marketing Organizations in Europe of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat (RAMSAR)
European Confederation of Paint, Printing Ink and Artists' Colours Manufacturers Associations
European Federation of Autoproducers of Electricity
European Federation of Building Societies
European Fertilizers Manufacturers' Association
European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions
European Travel Commission
European Travel Data Centre
European Tyre and Rim Technical Organization
EUROTER
EUROTRAC
Federation of European Aerosol Associations
GLOBE E.C.
Group of Sesimbra
International Article Numbering Association
International Association of Natural Gas Vehicles
International Committee for the Prevention of Work Accidents in Inland Navigation
International Council for Bird Preservation
International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
International Joint Commission
International Rail Transport Committee
International Union of Combined Road-Rail Transport Companies
International Union of Property Owners
International Union of Railways
Liaison Committee for the Manufacture of Automobile Equipment and Spare Parts
North African Port Management Association
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications
South East Asia Iron and Steel Institute
Union of the Natural Gas Industries in Europe